



Information on Custody & Separation

We, the Board and Management and Staff of St Catherine's NS recognize that among the student population there are those whose parents live apart from one another. We recognize that this can give rise to a range of issues and difficulties for the students and for the their parents.

We encourage separated, separating or non-cohabiting parents to come and speak confidentially to the teachers and/or Principal about any issues or difficulties which may arise for their child or children by reason of that separation. It is our aim to handle such matters with sensitivity and compassion, and ultimately our primary concern is for the well-being and overall development of the child. We recognize that the range of issues to which separation can give rise can be very wide, but in our experience most can be overcome with some pre-planning and dialogue between the school and the parents. The staff can recommend books, videos, publications etc. dealing with the issue of separation, on request.

We have already adopted and implemented the following protocols, which we find addresses satisfactorily the needs and concerns of most pupils and their parents. We are always open to discuss individual requirements or concerns with parents, but we would kindly ask you to observe and co-operate with the following

When a child spends time in two homes it is requested that the school be provided with both sets of emergency/contact numbers.

Regarding the collection of children from school, it is requested that the school be informed of any changes in collection arrangements by note.

It is the school policy to offer the option of separate parent/teacher meetings, if so desired. Please let us know in writing in advance if you wish to have separate parent/teacher meetings.

It is assumed that when we wish to communicate with parents regarding their child, the parent who is contacted (i.e. the parent with whom the child principally resides) will inform the other parent of meetings, arrangements etc. Please let us know if this general arrangement does not meet your particular circumstances and we will try to accommodate any reasonable alternative arrangement.

In the case of married parents, the school cannot be asked to withhold a child from either parent in the absence of a custody arrangement or Court Order.

In the case of unmarried parents, as the natural father has no custody or guardianship rights unless a court grants those rights to him, the onus is on the father to produce evidence of a court order in the case of a dispute regarding the collection of a child during or after school.

Chairperson Board of Management