

Milford NS

Information Sheet on Custody/ Separation

The Staff of Milford NS encourage parents experiencing separation to come and speak confidentially to the teachers and/or Principal. 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.

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 child/ren from school - it is requested that the school be informed of any changes in collection arrangements by note.

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. Special requests for separate communication can be accommodated.

- Regarding notes, school communication via schoolbags, school reports etc, it is assumed that the parent with whom the child principally resides will keep the other parent informed.
- 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. In the case of unmarried parents, the natural father has no custody or guardianship rights unless a court grants those rights to him. The onus is on the parent to produce evidence of a court order in the case of a dispute regarding the collection of a child during or after school.
- The staff of Milford NS will endeavour at all times to deal sensitively and caringly with children experiencing separation. The staff can recommend books, videos, publications etc. dealing with the issue of separation, on request.

This policy was originally ratified by the Board of Management on January 14th 2009. It was reviewed and ratified on November 12th 2012