

Custody and Separation Policy of Scoil Bhríde, Kill

The Staff of Scoil Bhríde, Kill encourages 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.

1. When a child spends time in two homes, it is requested that the school be provided with both sets of emergency/contact numbers.
2. Regarding the collection of children from school, it is requested that the school be informed of any changes in collection arrangements by note. Separate parent/teacher meetings can be arranged if necessary.
3. 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. Separate communication may be accommodated on receipt of a written request.
4. It is important that the Principal and the child's teacher are kept up to date with custody arrangements.
5. During school hours, the children are under the control of the Principal and teachers who are in loco parentis. All requests to seek access to the child must be done through the school office.
6. In the absence of a custody arrangement, both parents will be treated as equal partners in terms of parenting rights and responsibilities. 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 father to produce evidence of a court order in the case of a dispute regarding the collection of a child during or after school.
7. The school cannot be asked to withhold a child from either parent, in the absence of a custody arrangement.
8. The Staff of Scoil Bhríde, Kill will endeavour at all times to deal sensitively, and caringly with the children experiencing separation.
9. We recommend [www.courts .ie/familylaw](http://www.courts.ie/familylaw) for keeping up to date with changes to legislation Ratified on this date by

Signed : Jean Roche

Date:23rd June 2014

Chairperson Scoil Bhríde, Kill