

OBERON PRIMARY SCHOOL

(STUDENT) CUSTODY POLICY



Rationale

Schools are often confronted with issues relating to custody of students and often these are emotionally charged. In order to manage custody related issues in accordance with the law Oberon Primary School as put in place this Student Custody Policy.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Oberon Primary School to manage all child custody issues in accordance with the law.

Implementation

In order to adhere to the Oberon Primary School Custody Policy the following procedures and processes must be adhered.

- The school's policy and processes, relating to the management of child custody, will be clearly articulated to parents and guardians. Copies of the policy will be made available to parents and guardians.
- Parents or guardians are required to complete and sign accurate enrolment forms for children for whom they have custody.
- Enrolments must be accompanied by birth certificates or similar that proves a student's name and birth date.
- The school will only enrol a child under the name provided on a birth certificate or more recent legally recognised document that details a name change.
- Any custody issues are to be declared, and supported by legal documentation — which will be photocopied and retained on the student's individual file.
- The principal will be responsible for ensuring the school complies with all Family Court Orders or similar legal documents relating to custody.
- The school will assume a default position that both natural parents have equal access to enrolled students unless current court orders or legal documents dictate otherwise.
- Both natural parents will have access to school reports, newsletters, parent interviews, and their children at school unless court orders or similar legal documents dictate otherwise.
- Parents or guardians who claim custody restrictions but fail to provide documentation will not have their requests met until such time as supporting documentation is provided.
- People who have restricted access to students, and whose presence at school or requests for information etc. are in breach of court orders or similar legal documents, will be directed immediately to the principal.
- The police will be contacted immediately if people refuse to comply with the principal's lawful instructions or to obey court orders or similar.

- Any breeches of custody restrictions will be reported by the principal to the parent who legally looks after the child.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was ratified by the School Council on: 02/08/2016

NEXT REVIEW DATE: August 2019