



St Gerard Majella School

Custody Policy

PREAMBLE

Schools are often confronted with issues relating to custody of students and such issues are often emotionally charged.

POLICY

St. Gerard Majella School will manage custody related issues in accordance with the law.

VALUES

Justice, Truth, Compassion.

PRINCIPLES

- 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 to verify 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.
- Any custody issues are to be declared by the parent/s enrolling the student and supported by legal documentation – which will be photocopied and retained on the student's individual file. Without this documentation the school will assume a default position and both natural parents will have equal access to enrolled students.
- The Principal will ensure that the school complies with all Parenting Court Orders or similar legal documents relating to custody.
- Both Legal Guardians 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.



St Gerard Majella School

Custody Policy - continued

- People who have their access to students restricted, 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 breaches of custody restrictions will be reported by the Principal to the parent who normally looks after the child.

EVALUATION

This policy is to be reviewed as part of the School's renewal cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Board on 26 November 2014

Chair Signature