

Custody/ Separation Issues

It is the aim of all at Glasnevin Educate Together N.S. to handle all matters relating to custody /separation with sensitivity and compassion. Our primary concern is for the well being and overall development of the child. The school will not become involved in differences between parents.

The staff of Glasnevin Educate Together N.S. encourages parents experiencing separation to come and speak confidentially to the teacher and Principal.

The staff of Glasnevin Educate Together N.S. 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. The school can also offer the Rainbow programme.

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

It is assumed that when the school wishes 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.

It is assumed that the parent with whom the child normally resides will keep the other parent informed with regard to short notes, newsletters, school communication via schoolbags, etc.

By agreement the school may offer the option of separate parent/teacher meetings, if so desired. Special requests for separate school reports can be accommodated but must be clearly communicated to both the Principal and class teacher at the beginning of each school year. It is the responsibility of the parents to communicate these requests to the school.

In all matters pertaining to the child and the school, (including but not limited to the collection of a child during or after school), both parents will be treated as equal partners in terms of parenting rights and responsibilities. In the event of any request that any parent be treated otherwise, the onus is on the party making the request to furnish to the school a written instruction or agreement signed by both parents, or a court order.

Regarding the collection of child/children from school, parents are requested to resolve any issues between themselves or by legal means. The school cannot withhold a child from either parent unless the school has received a written instruction or agreement to withhold the child signed by both parents, or a court order to withhold the child. Where such a written instruction or agreement or court order is in place, a copy must be given to the Principal for retention in the child's school files. Where such written instruction or agreement or court order is in place, it

is **required** that the school be informed in writing signed by both parents, or by amended court order, of any changes in collection arrangements.

Board of Management: **David Kennedy Ralph** (Chairperson)

Date: 17/04/2010