Rationale
Schools are often confronted with issues relating to parental separation and Family Law. While such issues are often emotionally charged, the school will manage Family Law related issues in accordance with the law and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD Policy).

Aim

• To develop and implement clear and responsible processes for managing Family Law related issues at a school level.

• To clearly articulate the school’s processes relating to management of Family Law issues to parents.

Implementation

• Parents or guardians are required to complete and sign accurate enrolment forms for children for whom they have parental responsibility.

• Enrolments must be accompanied by a Birth Certificate 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 such as an officially amended birth certificate, proof of adoption or court order authorising another name.

• If Family Law Orders or agreements exist, or Intervention Orders, in relation to a student these must be provided to the school, which will be photocopied and retained on the student’s individual file.

• The Principal will be responsible for overseeing the school’s management of Family Law Orders, Intervention Orders or similar legal documents relating to students.

• The school recognises that both birth parents have parental responsibility for enrolled students unless current court orders or legal documents dictate otherwise.

• The school recognises that parents with parental responsibility have the power to access school reports, newsletters, parent interviews, attendance records and school photo order forms for their children at school unless court orders or similar legal documents dictate otherwise.

• Parents or guardians who claim the existence of Family Law Orders or agreements or Intervention Orders but fail to provide documentation will not have their requests met until copies of the orders or agreements are provided.

• People who have restricted parental responsibility for students, or 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.
The Principal will report any potential breach of an order to the other parent with parental responsibility.

Staff will not provide any letters or statements of support or verbal advice to either party who may be in dispute and are seeking said material for any court action.

References

- School Policy & Advisory Guide

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every three (3) years or as deemed necessary.