

Castleknock Educate Together National School
Information Sheet on Custody/ Separation

The Staff of Castleknock Educate Together National School 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.

When a child spends time in two homes, it is requested that the school be provided with both sets of emergency/contact numbers. Regarding the collection of child/children from school - it is requested that the school be informed of details of arrangements and any changes in collection arrangements by note. It is the school policy to offer the option of separate parent/teacher meetings, if so desired (usually arranged in November).

We will assume 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 in a timely fashion. Requests for separate communication may be accommodated in particular circumstances when deemed necessary;

- Regarding notes, school communication via schoolbags, school reports etc, it is assumed that the parent with whom the child principally resides will keep the other parent informed.
- 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.
- **The staff of CETNS will endeavour at all times to deal sensitively and caringly with children experiencing separation.** The staff can recommend books, support group activities, videos, publications etc. dealing with the issue of separation, on request.

Ratification of Procedure

This policy has been drawn up in consultation with the principal, teaching staff, parents and BOM of CETNS. This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 8th April 2014.

Signed: _____

Billy Quane
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: _____