

## Custody / Separation Policy

**The Staff of Scoil Naomh Bríde, Blackwater, encourage parents experiencing separation to come to speak confidentially to the Principal and /or the relevant teachers. 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.**

1. When a child spends time in two homes, it is requested that the school be provided with both sets of addresses and emergency / contact numbers.
2. Regarding the collection of children from school, it is requested that the school be informed of any changes in collection arrangements by note.
3. It is the school policy to offer the option of separate parent / teacher meetings, if so desired.
4. It is assumed 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.  
Special requests for separate communication can be accommodated.
5. 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.
6. In the absence of a custody arrangement, both parents will be treated as equal partners in terms of parenting rights and responsibilities.
7. The school cannot be asked to withhold a child from either parent, in the absence of a custody arrangement.
8. The Staff of Scoil Naomh Bríde will endeavour, at all times, to deal sensitively and caringly with children who are experiencing separation. The Staff can recommend books, publications etc. dealing with the issue of separation, on request.

### **Implementation and review :**

The implementation of this policy began in November 2005. It was reviewed in September 2010 and amended accordingly. The latest review took place during September 2015. All members of the teaching Staff/Board of Management and representative of the Parents' Association were involved in the latest review and the policy was amended accordingly.

### **Ratification and communication :**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Bríde, Blackwater on ..... Parents may view this policy at the school, by appointment with the Principal.

**Signed :** .....