

RIDGEVIEW SCHOOL BOARD POLICY



COURT ORDERS

National Education and Learning Priorities 5 – Health & Safety

Background to Policy

The safety, wellbeing, and security of all students is the first and paramount consideration of Ridgeview School.

Policy Statement

The school recognises that students may live in a situation where one parent is not living at the permanent address of the student. Parents are therefore responsible for informing the school of the day-to-day care, pick-up, and contact arrangements in place for their child, whether agreed informally, recorded in an agreement, or provided for in court orders.

Policy Implementation

Day-to-day care arrangements for children can be agreed informally, recorded in a formal agreement, or determined by a parenting order from the Family Court.

It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to provide the school with a written copy of any agreement or court order related to the care of their child as soon as possible. This ensures the school can support the family in following such agreements/orders. It is also very important that family contact details are kept up to date.

Any such agreements/orders may be shared with the student's teacher, and any other key staff, as considered necessary by the principal. All personal information is kept strictly confidential and documentation regarding such agreements/orders will be held in a separate file.

If a parent or guardian has not given the school reasonable notice of a change in custody/care arrangements for their child, the school may choose to follow the arrangement already in place.

Except where there are any court orders or protection orders in place, both parents, and any other guardians, are entitled to:

- receive school newsletters and a copy of the child's school reports;
- discuss their child's educational progress with the principal and teachers;
- be consulted on the need for specialist educational services;
- see their child's school records, subject to any legal restrictions;
- participate in disciplinary hearings involving their child;
- receive information through the school's class representative system;
- vote in board elections;
- participate in parent groups or meetings and other school functions.

The guardians themselves must take the initiative in exercising these rights.

The school appreciates parents being able to attend the same parent interviews where possible.

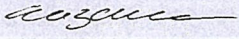
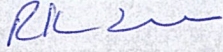
If the school has concerns about a person wanting to contact a student at school, they should follow the agreement or court order related to the care of the child held by the school.

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A court appointed lawyer for the child may request to meet with the child at school. The school will facilitate this where possible in accordance with the wishes of the child.

Any dispute over the rights of separated parents regarding their child's education, day-to-day care arrangement, and communication at/with the school should be resolved by the parents, or through the courts.

This policy will be reviewed as per the Board's Effectiveness Review Programme	
Confirmed by the Board Members on:	<u>06/06/2023</u> (date)
The planned review date will be:	<u>June 2026</u> (date)
 _____ Presiding Member	 _____ Principal