



## **Custody and Separation Policy**

**2023-2028**

The B.O.M. and staff of Scoil Diarmada encourage parents experiencing separation to come and speak **confidentially at the earliest opportunity** 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 the 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 children from school, it is requested that the school be informed in writing of any changes in the collection arrangements.
- It is school policy to offer the option of separate parent/teacher meetings, if so desired (arranged in November/January).
- It is assumed that when we wish to communicate with parents regarding their child, the parent contacted (i.e. the parent with whom the child principally resides) will inform the other parent of meetings, arrangements etc. Special arrangements of separate communication will be accommodated.
- 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. When messages are posted on Aladdin Noticeboard it is assumed both parents have activated their Aladdin Connect Codes. Messages sent about an individual child are visible to both parents
- In the absence of a custody arrangement, both parents will be treated as equal partners in terms of parenting rights and responsibilities.

- The school cannot be asked to withhold a child from either parent, in the absence of a custody arrangement or court order.

The B.O.M. and staff of Scoil Diarmada will endeavour at all times to deal sensitively and caringly with children experiencing separation.

**This policy was formulated during April/May 2011 and was reviewed in Oct 2023 by school staff. It was ratified by the Board at its meeting on November 2023.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eugene Wall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "l".