

**St. Patrick's Junior School**  
**Communication with Separated Parents Policy**

**Introduction**

This policy was drawn up by the staff and approved by the Board of Management

**Rationale**

The need for this policy arose due to a request from a separated parent for all communications to home from school to be duplicated to him. This necessitated having a framework in place for good practice in relation to communication.

**Aim**

To ensure that both parents are informed of particular relevant dates

**Policy Content**

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.

- Regarding notes, school communication via schoolbags 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 following will be posted to parents who request **in writing** separate communication

- School Calendar
- Christmas Play Date and Time
- Parent Teacher Meetings (in line with that policy)
- Sacramental Preparation Schedule
- Learning Support Notification
- End of year report

**Review**

Reviewed by the Board of Management 22/5/2012

Ristead Shannon  
Chairperson