

Separated Parents Policy

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School



Approved by:	Mrs C Vile, Headteacher
Lead of Review:	Mr C. Jones Assistant Headteacher
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Catholic Social Teaching



Common Good

The Separated Parents Policy outlines how Ellesmere Port Catholic High School interacts with and supports children whose parents are separated, divorced, or otherwise not together. This is for the common good of students and parents. Its goal is to prioritise the child's well-being, ensure consistent communication with all legal guardians, and establish clear protocols for parental involvement.

1. Legal Responsibilities

The school will recognize both parents as having legal rights to:

- Be involved in their child's education.
- Receive information about the child (e.g., progress reports, newsletters, events).
- Access school policies, handbooks, and records (unless court orders restrict these rights).
- A parent may need to provide legal documents (e.g., custody orders or court restrictions) to confirm limitations on the other parent's access.

2. Communication with Parents

- The school will make reasonable efforts to communicate with both parents equally (e.g., sending duplicate reports or notices if requested).
- Schools often encourage parents to communicate with each other to avoid being a mediator.

3. Emergency Contacts and Pick-Up Protocols

- Both parents can usually be listed as emergency contacts unless a legal order specifies otherwise.
- If there are custody arrangements or restrictions regarding pick-up, the school must have clear written instructions and copies of any relevant legal documents.
- Staff are trained not to release a child to anyone not authorised.

4. Parent-Teacher Conferences and Meetings

- Both parents are entitled to attend parent-teacher conferences unless restricted by court orders.
- Schools may request that parents avoid scheduling joint meetings if conflict is likely.

5. Managing Disputes Between Parents

- Schools are not responsible for mediating disputes between separated parents.
- Staff will avoid taking sides and refer parents to appropriate external resources (e.g., family counsellors, legal advisors).

6. Child's Well-Being

- The school's priority is the child's welfare, ensuring they feel safe and supported.
- Teachers and counsellors may provide additional support to children struggling with the separation.

7. Information Updates

- Parents are responsible for keeping the school informed of changes in custody, living arrangements, or contact information.