

GUARDIANSHIP POLICY

Introduction:

Deira Private School believes in the policy of Equality and Non-Discrimination. The school believes that every child has a right to a family. Children have Right to Both Parents and recognize that both parents have common responsibility in rearing their children. The mutual enjoyment of parent-child relationship falls within the sphere of Right to Family life even when parents separate or divorce.

The school recognizes that, all children have a right to be protected against neglect, maltreatment, injury, and trafficking, sexual and physical abuse of all kinds, corporal punishment, torture, exploitation, violence and degrading treatment. Legal action can be taken against those committing such violations against children even if they are the legal guardians of such children.

The school recognizes Right to Equality, Freedom of Expression, Freedom to Seek and Receive Information, Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly. It is our responsibility to ensure that all children are treated equally and without discrimination based on the child's or the child's parents or legal guardian's race, colour, caste, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, disability, birth, political status, or any other consideration.

It is also our endeavour to ensure children shall be given every opportunity for holistic development of their personality, including expression of creativity.

The school recognizes Child Friendly Procedures: All matters and procedures relating to children, viz., judicial, administrative, educational or social, shall be child friendly.

Therefore, in case of separated / divorced parents, the school recognizes full rights to either parent unless the school has been provided with evidence that there is a specific court order, state statute, or legally binding document that specifically revokes these rights.

The school is aware that, Parental Alienation is psychological manipulation of children showing into unwarranted fear and/or rejection of a parent and immediate family members without any reasonable cause or justification and Parental Alienation is a form of emotional child abuse having severe psychological impact on a child. Tutoring, brainwashing, mind poisoning, instilling fears and using another variety of methods to alienate a child away from one of their parents and immediate family members is not in the child's best interest.

Important Points to Note:

1. Role of Separated Parents: In general, the school recognizes Both Parents as Best Parents. Parents must provide the current complete contact details of the child's other parent.

Parents still in dispute are required to sign the Parenting Plan / Consent terms and play a positive role in their child's life. They must submit an Affidavit / Undertaking / Indemnity to that effect in the long term best interest

of their child. Parents are encouraged to keep adult related issues among themselves and not to involve school in their internal dispute or litigation.

2. Payment of School Fees: The school reserves Right to accept educational fees of the child on first come first basis by a parent. In case if both the separated parents have paid fees for the academic year, the additional fees that are paid shall be adjusted for the next academic year or shall be refunded upon joint consent of both parents or upon receipt of a court order.

3. Child's Record: Both Parents shall be notified, updated, and provided all records of their child unless there is a specific court order restraining the child's other parent. Upon written request by a parent, the school may provide records, reports, any correspondence related to the child, update a parent about the same by email, Whatsapp, or post. (No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his/her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attack on his/her honour and reputation). The school does not require prior consent to disclose child related information to a parent or guardian of the child.

In an emergency, school officials are authorised to disclose, without consent, education records, including personally identifiable information from those records, to protect the health or safety of child/children or other individuals.

4. In case of children in shared custody / joint custody arrangement: upon submission of a court order / parenting plan / mutual consent terms, the school may allow students with two legal residences because of shared custody of parents to be used to and from both homes.

This provision is also subjected to availability of school bus services in the area where parents may reside.

Additional Guidelines for separated parents:

- Both parents can mutually / individually make an appointment to meet with school authorities at the beginning of the school year to discuss.
- Any relevant court orders or other legal documents relating to the student.
- Their interests in and concerns about parent involvement opportunities.
- Their rights and responsibilities in requesting and receiving school-related documents and mailings.
- How and when they want the school to contact them.

Document	Guardianship Policy
Date written	August 2023
Next Review	August 2024
Version	Working Document