



# Family (and other) Court Policy

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## Policy

The Beehive Montessori School shall at all times recognise, respect and act in a manner that is consistent with any orders made by the Family Court of Western Australia (Family Court) and other Courts on members of the School community.

## Background

1. The Family Court and other Courts may make orders for the welfare of children. Some parents, guardians and students may be the subject of court orders.
2. Most commonly these court orders are likely to be parenting orders made by the Family Court which deal with:
  - 2.1. who a student will live with;
  - 2.2. how much time a student will spend with each parent and with other people, such as grandparents;
  - 2.3. the allocation of parental responsibility;
  - 2.4. how a student will communicate with a parent that they do not live with, or other people; and
  - 2.5. any other aspect of the care, welfare or development of a student.
3. Parents, guardians, teachers and students may be the subject of or affected by other court orders including:
  - 3.1. violence restraining orders (**VRO**) made by the Magistrates Court of Western Australia (Magistrates Court) to restrain violence, threats, harassment or intimidation;
  - 3.2. an order for the protection and care of a child made by the Magistrates Court.

## Implementation

Parents subject to a Family Court Order or Parenting Plan shall:

1. Provide a copy of the most up to date Family Court Order or Parenting Plan to the school.

The School shall:

1. Be impartial;
2. Maintain strict confidentiality;
3. Request and endeavour to obtain the most up to date copies of all court orders which are relevant to the welfare of a student if these have not been provided by the parent;
4. Familiarise itself with the terms of all court orders which are relevant to the welfare of a student;
5. Inform the teacher of all court orders which are relevant to the welfare of a student in that teacher's class;

## The Beehive Montessori School Inc.

Curtin Avenue, Mosman Park, WA 6012 | PO Box 81, Mosman Park, WA 6912 | ABN: 30 855 464 402

Tel: (08) 9383 1283 Email: [admin@beehive.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@beehive.wa.edu.au) [beehive.wa.edu.au](http://beehive.wa.edu.au)



6. Understand that unless specified in a court order, both parents have equal access to documentation and to participate in school related activities;
7. Manage all family issues (in particular child welfare issues) with the welfare of the student as the paramount concern with compassion and understanding for all parties;
8. Remind those who are subject to a court order, to immediately notify the School of any change in circumstances which is relevant to the welfare of a student or may otherwise impact on their relationship with the School; and
9. In the event a parent is in breach of the order, make every effort to verbally persuade them to cease acting in that manner and if they continue to act in breach of the court order to endeavour to contact the other parent immediately. If a child is at risk of harm, the School shall contact the police.

#### **Related Documents and Resources**

[Admissions Policy](#)

[Anti-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Policy](#)

[Child Protection Policy](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Complaints and Feedback Policy](#)

[Communication Pathway](#)

[Critical Incident and Emergency Management Policy](#)

Department for Child Protection and Family Support [www.dcp.wa.gov.au](http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au)

Enrolment Forms

Family Court of Australia [www.familycourt.gov.au](http://www.familycourt.gov.au)

Family Court of Western Australia [www.familycourt.wa.gov.au](http://www.familycourt.wa.gov.au)

[Family Law Issues, AISWA Policies and Procedures](#)

Magistrates Court of Western Australia [www.magistratescourt.wa.gov.au](http://www.magistratescourt.wa.gov.au)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Staff Code of Conduct](#)

[Student Wellbeing Hub](#)

*Approved 7/11/24 by the Board Policy Committee. Next review due 7/11/26*

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