



Uimhir rolla: 20082Q

Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg

Bóthar Rúisc, Dún Búinne, Co na Mí

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Príomhoide: Seán O Láimhín Leas-príomhoide: Mairín Ní Chonaire

Parental Separation Policy

Introduction & Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to provide the school community of Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg with guidelines and information on Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg's policy regarding custody and communications from the school in circumstances where a child's parents are separated.

This policy is based on the guidelines outlined by the Irish Primary Principal's Network and is reflective of The Children and Family Relations Act 2015, which came into effect on 18th January 2016.

Over-arching Guiding Principles

The overarching principle guiding this policy is to provide children attending Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg with a safe and secure community and learning environment. Providing children with a safe and secure environment will guide all our interactions with parents.

Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg will, in the absence of a court order treat all parents as equal partners in terms of the rights and responsibilities of the child's education. In furtherance of the above, the Board of Management and the staff of Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg encourage parents experiencing issues relating custody or receiving communications from the school to speak confidentially to the school principal.

The Board of Management assures parents and guardians that such conversations will be treated with confidentiality, sensitivity and compassion. The following procedures will apply:

1. Notifying school of parental separation or change of living circumstances:

We encourage parents to advise Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg when a child's living circumstances have changed, for example if a child is no longer living with a parent. This allows the school to take into account any changes in the child's behaviour and it informs teachers to deal with the child sensitively when topics such as family or relationships are being covered.

2. Contact details of each parent must be provided to the school: each parent is responsible for ensuring that they provide Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg with their full contact details.

3. Correspondence/Notices from Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg:

Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg recognises the right and the importance of each parent being involved in the child's education and school life. Subject to the below, in the absence of a court order, Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg will communicate with each parent equally. To facilitate each parent receiving school communications, Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg strongly recommends that each parent register and create an account for Aladdin which is the school's primary communication tool. School reports are delivered through the Aladdin tool.

Each parent should also ensure they are added to the contact list for email communications by the school. With regard to informal/ad hoc oral communications by the school principal, class teacher or SNA in

relation to the child, these will be done on an informal basis with either parent at the discretion of the staff member.

4. Drop off/Collection from School: Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg welcomes parents to the school and, in the absence of a court order, Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg will hand over custody of the child to either parent. Parents are responsible for informing Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg of the existence of or change to any court order or court ruled arrangement. In a case where guardianship of a child is disputed, the parent asserting guardianship must provide evidence of custody or guardianship rights. If there is a serious concern about a parent abducting or leaving the country with the child, the parents should request their solicitor to seek a court order instructing the school and any other carers regarding rights of access. In the case of an immediate concern, the concerned parent should contact the Gardai.

5. Parent/Teacher Meetings: Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg recommends that parents attend parent/teacher meetings together for the wellbeing of the child and to ensure consistent communications. If this is not possible, the school can facilitate separate parent/teacher meetings if so desired. Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg supports and acknowledges each parent's right to receive information in relation to the child's social and educational development and will facilitate parent/teacher meetings for each parent save in circumstances of a court order preventing such meeting.

6. Third Party requests for reports/attendance at court: The school will not, provide any report regarding the child where requested by a third party (e.g. Solicitor/psychologist) unless obliged to do so by court order. The school principal or child's teachers will not attend court if requested by a parent or on behalf of a parent unless under subpoena or summons.

7. Commitment to Parents by the School: Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg recognises parental disputes and separation are stressful life events for all concerned. Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg makes the following commitments to all parents:

- Staff of Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg will be fair to, and communicate with each parent;
- Subject to each parent registering with Aladdin and the school email correspondence list, will advise both parents of school meetings and events.
- Respect the confidentiality of family circumstances and only discuss relevant information with others within the school where necessary.
- Seek advice from the principal or the Board of Management regarding any queries or concerns they may have.

Communication of Policy: A copy will be provided to all staff members in the school. It will be available for all parents from the school office/reception. It will be made available to the Parents' Association and published on the school's website: www.tulach.ie

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg on 14.11.2022.

This policy will be reviewed in September 2025, or earlier should the need arise regarding legislation etc.

Signature of Chairperson:  Séamus Caomhánach

Signature of Principal:  Séan O' Láimhín