

DSM Policy

Change in Family Circumstances

Deutsche Schule Melbourne Inc, ABN 52 936 931 854



Rationale

The Deutsche Schule Melbourne (DSM) - A German English Bilingual School aims to create and maintain a learning environment that facilitates development of the whole child, in a bilingual and multicultural environment.

Sometimes family situations change. It is important for the school to be aware of new arrangements to ensure the child's safety and wellbeing.

Principles

- To understand family circumstances and arrangements in regards to parental responsibility of students, pick-up and drop-off arrangements for children, arrangements for ill students, consents and permissions, notifications to parents and payment of fees.
- To provide for efficient communications with parents that satisfies the needs of both the students and the school.
- To ensure that information gathered as part of the enrolment process meets the minimum standards for collection of information on student background characteristics.

Definitions

“Applicant” means the person/s set out in the 'Application for Enrolment' form, being the parent/s and/or guardian/s of the student and, if more than one, each of them jointly and severally.

“School” means the Deutsche Schule Melbourne.

School requirements

Responsibility of parents

Generally parental rights and responsibilities are shared between both parents. Where court orders are in place rights and responsibilities may be allocated to one parent. It is important for the school to know about any legal arrangements in place so that the school can abide by the provisions and work effectively with families.

Court Orders may include, but are not limited to:

- Parenting Agreements

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- Family Court Orders
- Family Violence Orders
- No Contact Orders

Any Court Orders should be provided to the School at the point of enrolment, or during the course of enrolment if they are put in place after a child is enrolled.

The School's priority is the wellbeing of the students. Whilst the School will comply with court orders which bind the School, parents who have separated should have no expectation that the School will assist in relation to any family law dispute or "police" court orders on behalf of parents which it is not bound by.

Where no orders are in place which specify otherwise, the School will consider both parents to have equal shared rights and responsibilities.

This may give rise to conflict, if parents differ in opinion or seek information from the school about their child. To safeguard against any conflict this may potentially cause, in instances of separation the School may seek clarity from both parents of a student as to whom should be approached for:

- pick up and drop off arrangements for children;
- extra-curricular programs and pre- and after school care programs;
- arrangements for ill students;
- arrangements for emergencies;
- consents and permissions;
- school / student notifications to parents (e.g. school reports), and
- payment of fees and charges.

Enrolment / Change of Circumstances Procedures

Family situations may be clear prior to enrolment or change during the time of student's enrolment at the school.

Where family situations change during the course of their child's enrolment at the School, parents are asked to notify the school of any changes as soon as possible. The School may require the parents to attend an appointment with the Principal, so that the school can understand the changes and ensure that the child is best supported while at the School. Parents should bring along any Court Orders that may be in place at the time of this appointment.

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