



# Cooloola Christian College

## FAMILY LAW POLICY

<b>Policy:</b>	Board	
<b>Purpose:</b>	To outline Cooloola Christian College's response to matters in relation to family law issues To describe how the College responds to requests by parents/carers who have no contractual arrangements with the College for information about, and access to, their child(ren)	
<b>Scope:</b>	The policy covers parents/carers, students and staff	
<b>Status:</b>	Adopted: August 2010 Reviewed: February 2018	Supercedes:
<b>Authorised by:</b>	Board Chair	Date:
<b>References:</b>	<i>Family Law Act 1975</i> Student Protection Policy Privacy Policy Enrolment Policy	
<b>Review Frequency:</b>	Every 2 Years	Next Review Date: February 2020

### BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Cooloola Christian College accepts its responsibility to provide a safe environment for children and to provide an education which fosters their health, developmental needs, spirituality, self-respect and dignity. We are entrusted by parents with the care of their children, who are precious in the sight of God.

### RATIONALE

1. Schools have contractual obligations to the person who enrolls the child and who is responsible for payment of the fees.
2. Schools have a duty in tort to take reasonable care for the safety of the child.
3. Schools have no way of knowing as a fact who the natural parents of a child are.
4. Schools should not need to determine the current state of orders in a Family Court matter.
5. The Family Court seldom makes an order which a school is directed to obey.

### POLICY

Except in exceptional circumstances outlined below, the College does not become involved in Family Court matters.

It is the policy of Cooloola Christian College to provide information about a child and access to the child to those people whom the school believes are the natural parents of the child and to others as authorised by the person who enrolls the child.

If the enrolling party directs some other course, the directed course will be followed by the school, under the school's contractual obligations to the enrolling party.

If there is a disagreement between the enrolling party and others who believe they have the right of access to information about or access to the child, it is the responsibility of those parties to reach agreement independently from the school, either through consultation or court action.

The school will not become involved as the arbiter in disputes of this kind.

## **EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

This policy is subject to three qualifications:

- (i) where a court orders otherwise and the order binds the school;
- (ii) where it is reasonably foreseeable that the safety of the child could be jeopardised;
- (iii) where the child objects and the College believes it is in the best interests of the child to heed the objection.