

# Dealing with your child's school post separation

1. Advise your child's teacher that you and your former spouse have separated. The teacher can alert you to any changes of behaviour experienced by your child in school. Different children experience separation differently, you are likely dealing with your own emotions post separation and an independent view can be useful in identifying whether the changes are affecting your child.
2. Update your contact details if changed. Make sure your child's other parent is listed on the school contact details (often whilst parents are together only one parent is listed as a contact person), in most case it is appropriate to have both parents listed (subject to safety concerns).
3. Make arrangements for each parent to receive correspondence from the school or be able to access school portals.
4. If your child is experiencing difficulties sometimes having them speak with the school counsellor or chaplain will assist them. Sometimes children need more assistance and this can be provided or organised though their GP or counsellor/psychologist.
5. If there are safety concerns, please ensure that your child's school is aware of this. If needed, you can seek a DVO or an order from the Family Law Courts restraining your former partner from attending at the child's school.
6. Changeover at school often provides a conflict free and more natural changeover location for a lot of families. Please keep your children's school conflict free when attending events parents normally attend.

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## **Dealing with your child's school post separation Continued....**

7. Parents that are co-parenting and/or have an order for equal shared parental responsibility should consult and attempt to agree changes of school for the child.
8. School uniforms and other school items – the school will often be an a venue for changeover and the children will bring school items such as uniforms, school bags and lunch boxes and homework with them. Ensure they are returned with the child. Don't leave food etc in the lunchboxes in go mouldy. If not restocking the lunchbox return it clean. Communicate any issues (eg. Lunch not eaten).
9. Completion of homework. Ensuring completion of homework is not just one parent's responsibility. Some parents will incorporate into their agreement or parenting plan or orders guidelines for the completion of homework. Remember whilst it may not be "fun" your child's education is important and both parents can contribute to this.
10. One of the important factors to co-parenting is communication. Make sure information you are provided is communicated to the other party .... Don't just sign the permission form for the swimming carnival and then forget to mention to the other parent and the child then attends school without their swimsuit!

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