



Complaints Policy

1. Introduction

We believe that our school provides a good education for all our children, and that all staff work very hard to build positive relationships with parents. We encourage open communication and hopefully avoidance of dissatisfaction by fostering good relationships. We take notice of parent opinion through informal contacts, FOFS feedback and Governor conversations / questionnaires. However, the school is obliged to have procedures in place in case there are complaints by parents. The following policy sets out the procedure that the school will follow in such cases.

If any parent is unhappy with the education that their child is receiving, or has any concern relating to the school, we encourage that person to talk to their child's class teacher immediately.

We deal with all complaints in accordance with procedures set out by the LA. If the school cannot resolve any complaint itself, those concerned can ask the LA to intervene.

All parents have the right, as a last resort, to appeal to the Secretary of State for Education, if they still feel that their complaint has not been properly addressed.

2. Aims and Objectives

Our school aims to be fair, open and honest when dealing with any complaint. We give careful consideration to any complaints and deal with them as swiftly as possible. We aim for a resolution through dialogue and mutual understanding. In all cases, we will put the interests of the child above all other issues. We will provide sufficient opportunity for any complaint to be fully discussed, and then resolved.

3. The complaints process

If a parent is concerned about anything to do with the education that we are providing at our school, they should, in the first instance, discuss the matter with their child's class teacher. Most matters of concern can be dealt with in this way. All

teachers work very hard to ensure that each child is happy at school and making good progress. They will want to know if there is a problem, so that they can take action before the problem seriously affects the child's progress.

Where a parent feels that a situation has not been resolved through contact with the class teacher, or that their concern is of a sufficiently serious nature, they should make an appointment to discuss it with the Headteacher. The Headteacher will consider any such complaint very seriously and investigate each case thoroughly. Most complaints are normally resolved at this stage.

Should a parent have a complaint about the Headteacher, s/he should first make an informal approach to one of the members of the governing body, who is then obliged to investigate it. The governor in question will do all s/he can to resolve the issue through a dialogue with the school, but if a parent is unhappy with the outcome, s/he can make a formal complaint, as outlined below.

Only if an informal complaint fails to resolve the matter should a formal complaint be made to the Governing Body. This complaint must be made in writing, stating the nature of the complaint and how the school has handled it so far. The parent should send this written complaint to the Chair of Governors.

The Governing Body must consider all written complaints, within three weeks of receipt. It will arrange a meeting to discuss the complaint, and invite the person making it to attend the meeting, so that s/he can explain her complaint in more detail. The school will give the complainant at least three days' notice of the meeting.

After hearing all the evidence, the Governors will consider their decision and inform the parent about it in writing. The Governors will do all they can at this stage to resolve the complaint to the parent's satisfaction.

If the complaint is not resolved, a parent may make representation to the LA. Further information about this process is available from the school or from the LA. An independent person, who considers all the evidence and makes a further judgment in an attempt to resolve the complaint, chairs a further meeting.

If any parent is still not content that the complaint has been dealt with properly, then s/he is entitled to appeal to the Secretary of State for Education.

4. Monitoring and Review

The Governors monitor the complaints procedure, in order to ensure that all complaints are handled properly. The Headteacher will log all complaints received by the school and record how they were resolved. Governors will be informed of all complaints recorded.

Governors take into account any local or national decisions that affect the complaints process, and make any modifications necessary to this policy. This policy is made available to all parents, so that they can be properly informed about the complaints process.

Signed:

Headteacher

Chair of Governors