

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Introduction

We try to work to very high standards; we try not to make mistakes. However, if you do have a complaint, please let us know as soon as possible. We will make every effort to deal with your complaint quickly and to resolve the problem to your satisfaction. We will give careful consideration to all complaints and deal with them fairly and honestly.

This document sets out the school's procedure for addressing complaints. Please note that this procedure does not apply to issues concerning the curriculum, collective worship, admissions, exclusion appeals, decisions about your daughter's special educational needs or grievances by school staff. These are the subject of separate complaints procedures. Details of these procedures can be obtained from the school.

Aims and Objectives

We will provide sufficient opportunity for any complaint to be fully discussed, and aim to resolve it through open dialogue and mutual understanding.

Complaints Procedure

Most complaints are best dealt with informally. If you have any concerns about the school or the education provided, please discuss the matter with your daughter's Head of Year at the earliest opportunity.

Stage 1 - informal

If you feel that a concern has not been addressed through discussion with your daughter's Head of Year, or that the concern is of a sufficiently serious nature, please: make an appointment to discuss it with the Headteacher. The Headteacher considers any such complaint very seriously and most complaints can be resolved at this stage.

Stage 2 – formal

If the matter cannot be resolved, or your complaint is about the Headteacher then it may be appropriate for you to write to the Chairman of Governors to make a formal complaint. (Verbal complaints will be taken just as seriously.) Please state the nature of the complaint, the steps taken to resolve it and the action you would like to see taken to remedy your concerns. The Chairman of Governors will review the way in which the complaint has been handled by the school and ensure that the issues have been dealt with properly and fairly. He will normally write to you with the outcome of this process within 15 working days of receiving the complaint.

Stage 3 – formal

If you are not satisfied with the result, you may ask to refer your complaint to Stage 3 of the procedure. At this Stage, a panel of governors will meet to consider the complaint and make a final decision about it on behalf of the governing body. The panel will consist of governors who have no detailed prior knowledge of the complaint, or connection with the complainant. The meeting will normally take place within 15 working days of your request.

You will have the opportunity to submit written evidence on the complaint prior to the meeting of the panel and also to attend part of the meeting, accompanied by a friend/partner if wished, to put your case. The Headteacher will be given the same opportunities. The panel will write to you with its conclusion within five working days of the meeting.

The decision of the panel is final. If you are still not satisfied, you may wish to put your complaint to the Local Education Authority.

Monitoring and review

The governing body monitors the complaints procedure, in order to ensure that all complaints are handled properly. The Headteacher logs all formal complaints received by the school and records how they were resolved. Governors examine this log on an annual basis and consider the need for any changes to the procedure.

Availability

A copy of this procedure is available to all parents on request.
