



## COMPLAINTS POLICY

## COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE FOR PARENTS

If parents have a complaint, they can expect it to be treated by the School in accordance with this Procedure.

### Stage 1 - Informal Resolution

- It is hoped that most complaints and concerns will be resolved quickly and informally.
- If parents have a complaint they should normally contact the teacher concerned (if it relates to work or the member of staff's attitude or an action taken by the member of staff), the Deputy Head or Head (if it relates to a member of staff) or their son's Tutor (for everything else). In many cases, the matter will be resolved straightaway to the parents' satisfaction by this means. If the teacher contacted cannot resolve the matter alone, it may be necessary for the teacher to consult another member of staff.
- *Complaints made otherwise to the above will usually be referred to the relevant teacher, unless the recipient of the complaint deems it appropriate for him/her to deal with the matter personally.*
- A recipient of a complaint will make a written record of all concerns and complaints and the date on which they were received. Should the matter not be resolved within a working week or in the event that the recipient of the complaint and the parent fail to reach a satisfactory resolution, then parents will be advised to proceed with their complaint in accordance with stage 2 of this Procedure.

### Stage 2 - Formal Resolution

- If the complaint cannot be resolved on an informal basis, then the parents should put their complaint in writing to the Head. The Head will decide, after considering the complaint, the appropriate course of action to take.
- In most cases, the Head will meet/speak to the parents concerned, normally within a working week of receiving the complaint, to discuss the matter. If possible, a resolution will be reached at this stage.
- It may be necessary for the Head to carry out further investigations.
- The Head will keep written records of all meetings and interviews held in relation to the complaint.
- *Once the Head is satisfied that, so far as is practicable, that all of the relevant facts have been established, a decision will be made and parents will be informed of this decision in writing. The Head will also give reasons for his/her decision.*
- *If parents are still not satisfied with the decision, they should proceed to Stage 3 of this Procedure.*

Stage 3 - Panel Hearing

- If parents seek to invoke Stage 3 (following a failure to reach an earlier resolution), they will be referred to the Chairman of Governors, who has been appointed by the Governors to call hearings of the Complaints Panel.
- The matter will then be referred to the Complaints Panel for consideration. The Panel will consist of at least two Governors and one other person who will be independent of the management and running of the school. Each of the Panel members shall be appointed by the Board of Governors. The Chairman of Governors, on behalf of the Panel, will then acknowledge the complaint and schedule a hearing to take place as soon as practicable and normally within 21 days.
- If the Panel deems it necessary, it may require that further particulars of the complaint or any related matter be supplied in advance of the hearing. Copies of such particulars shall be supplied to all parties not later than 7 days prior to the hearing.
- The parents may be accompanied to the hearing by one other person. This may be a relative, teacher or friend. Legal representation will not normally be appropriate.
- If possible the Panel will resolve the parents' complaint immediately without the need for further investigation
- Where further investigation is required, the Panel will decide how it should be carried out. After due consideration of all facts they consider relevant, the Panel will reach a decision and may make recommendations, which it shall complete within 14 days of the Hearing. The Panel will write to the parents informing them of its decision and the reasons for it. The decision of the Panel will be final. The Panel's findings and, if any, recommendations will be sent in writing to the parents, the Head, the Governors and, where relevant, the person complained of.

Parents can be assured that all concerns and complaints will be treated seriously' and confidentially. Correspondence, statements and records will be kept confidential except in so far as is required of the school by paragraph 6(2)(j) of the Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations 2003; where disclosure is required in the course of the school's inspection; or where any other legal obligation prevails.