

REDCLIFFE COMPLAINTS POLICY



Statement: This policy applies throughout Redcliffe School including Early Years Foundation Stage i.e. Robins and Kingfishers. Throughout this policy, we have made due regard to the five outcomes contained in Every Child Matters (Children's Act 2004), namely: Be healthy; Stay safe; Enjoy and achieve; Make a positive contribution; Achieve economic well-being.

INTRODUCTION

The School has long prided itself on the quality of the teaching and pastoral care provided to its pupils. However, if parents do have a complaint, they can expect it to be treated by the School in accordance with this policy and the procedures therein.

Aims

- To acknowledge that , from time to time, parents may feel dissatisfaction
- To enable parents to voice their dissatisfaction
- To enable the smooth resolution of complaints

PROCEDURES

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 contact their child's form teacher. In many cases, the matter will be resolved straightaway by this means, to the parents' satisfaction. The form teacher should always inform the Head.
- Complaints made directly to the Head will usually be referred to the relevant form teacher unless the Head deems it appropriate for her to deal with the matter personally.
- The form teacher 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 2 weeks or in the event that the form teacher 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 the parents concerned, normally **within a 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** (in a secure place) of all meetings and interviews held in relation to the complaint for at least three years.
- Once the Head is satisfied that, so far as is practicable, 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 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 school secretary, 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 **two governors and one person independent of the school.** **Each of the Panel members shall be appointed by the governors.** The School secretary, on behalf of the Panel, will then acknowledge the complaint and schedule a hearing to take place as soon as practicable and normally **within 7 days.**
- If the Panel deems 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 3 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 the facts they consider relevant, the Panel will reach a decision and may make recommendations, which it shall complete **within 5 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.**
- **A written record of any complaint will be kept by the Head for at least 3 years.**

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.

This policy and procedures will be reviewed regularly by the Head/Deputy
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