



Complaints Procedure (including EYFS)

Sherrardswood School

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 Procedure. This complaints procedure is available on the school website and available to parents in hard or electronic copy on request.

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 their son/daughter's Class Teacher. In many cases, the matter will be resolved straightaway by this means to the parents' satisfaction. If the Class Teacher cannot resolve the matter alone, it may be necessary for him/her to consult the Head.

Complaints made directly to the Head will usually be referred to the relevant Class Teacher unless the Head deems it appropriate for her to deal with the matter personally. The Class 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 ten school days or in the event that the Class 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 speak to the parents concerned, normally within five school days 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 endeavour to complete these investigations within a two week time frame.

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, 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 solution), they will be referred to the Directors of Alpha Schools Limited to convene a complaints panel.

The matter will then be referred to an appropriate Director of Alpha Schools for consideration who will establish a panel which will consist of three persons not directly involved in the matters detailed in this complaint, one of whom will be independent of the management and running of The School and appointed in accordance with the DFES guidance. Each of the panel members shall be appointed by the “Directors” – the panel will acknowledge the complaint and schedule a meeting to take place as soon as practicable and normally within fourteen 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 meeting. Copies of such particulars shall be supplied to all parties not later than five days prior to the meeting.

The parents may be accompanied to the meeting 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 make recommendations, which it shall complete within fourteen days of the meeting. The Panel will write to the parents informing them its decision and the reasons for it. (The decision of the Panel will be final). The panel’s findings and recommendations will be provided to the complainant and, where relevant, the person complained about; and available for inspection on the school premises by the proprietor and the headteacher;

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 where the Secretary of State or a body conducting an inspection under section 108 or 109 of the 2008 Act requests access to them.

The School will keep a written record of all complaints that are resolved following a formal procedure, or proceed to a panel hearing together with the action taken by the school as a result of those complaints (regardless of whether they are upheld).

In addition to the procedure set out in this document, parents are also entitled to make a complaint directly to the Independent Schools’ Inspectorate (ISI), or to OFSTED whose contact details are below.

EYFS

In the case of the EYFS, parents can make a complaint to Ofsted and/or ISI if they so wish.

The contact details for Ofsted are: 0300 123 1231
Royal Exchange Buildings Piccadilly Gate
Store Street Manchester M1 2WD

The contact details for ISI are: 0207 6000100
9-12 Long Lane London
EC1A 9HA

Written complaints about the fulfilment of EYFS requirements must be investigated and the complainant notified of the outcome of the investigation within 28 days.

The school received 7 Stage 1 complaints in the academic year 2017.2018
Of these, one progressed to Stage 2.
There were no Stage 3 Panel Hearings.

Date	Position	Name of Reviewer	Date of Next Review
July 2018	Headmistress	Mrs A Wright	March 2019
July 2018	CEO	Mr A Khan	March 2019