



RAINE'S FOUNDATION SCHOOL

A Voluntary Aided Church of England School

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“Achieving Excellence by Unlocking Potential”

Complaints and Procedures Policy

Date policy adopted	10 July 2014	
Revisions	Nature of revision	Date approved by Policy Development Committee

As a Church of England School, Christian values are at the heart of all we do. We value our relationship with parents, all members of Raine's Foundation School and the local community. If you have a concern we want to know about it so that it can be dealt with immediately. Most concerns can be dealt with easily and quickly but to ensure all concerns are handled effectively the Governing Body has adopted this Complaints Policy and Procedure

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This complaints policy and procedure is based on a Model Complaints Procedure formulated by the London Diocesan Board for Schools in January 2014.

The procedure has been devised with the intention that it will:

- Usually be possible to resolve problems by informal means;
- Be simple to use and understand;
- Treat complaints confidentially;
- Allow problems to be handled swiftly;
- Inform future practice so that the problem is unlikely to recur;
- Reaffirm the partnership between parents, staff and governors as they work together for the good of the pupils in the school;
- Ensure that the school's attitude to a pupil would never be affected by a parental complaint;
- Discourage anonymous complaints;
- Actively encourage strong home-school links;
- Ensure that all staff have opportunities to discuss and understand the school's response to concerns and complaints made by parents;
- Ensure that any person complained against has equal rights with the person making the complaint;

- Regularly review the system for monitoring concerns and complaints received from parents.

EXPRESSING A CONCERN: NOTES FOR PARENTS If you have a concern

We would like you to tell us about it so that we can talk with you and see how best to resolve your concern. The majority of concerns can be resolved informally by speaking to a member of staff. We welcome suggestions for improving our work in the school. Whatever your concerns, please know that we shall treat it as strictly confidential.

Be assured that no matter what you wish to share with us, our support and respect for you and your child in the school will not be affected in any way; please do not delay telling us of your concern. It is difficult for us to investigate properly an incident or problem which is more than a day or two old.

After hearing your concern we will act as quickly as we can; we will let you know the timescale within which you may expect a response. Please allow time for any action we may take to be effective. Our procedure is in three stages outlined below:

What to do first (Stage 1 – Informal)

Please contact your child's form tutor, or other appropriate member of staff, and arrange a time when you can discuss your concern. It may be possible for you to see the member of staff straight away but normally it is better to make an appointment so that you can sit and talk things through. It may be possible to give a response immediately, but where an investigation or information is required, a response will be given within five days.

What to do next (Stage 2 – Formal)

If you are still unhappy, ask for an appointment with the Head teacher within 10 school days of receiving a response under Stage 1. It is helpful if you can give a brief outline of your concern on the School's complaints form when you make the appointment. After your discussion with the Head teacher you may have to wait a short time while investigations are carried out. Every effort will be made to resolve the situation as quickly as possible and the Head teacher will send you a written response within 5 school days of your meeting. If it is not possible to respond within this timescale, the Head teacher will tell you when you can expect a response.

If you are still unhappy (Stage 3 – Formal)

The problem will normally be resolved by this stage. However, if you still have concerns and they have not been resolved you may ask for your complaint to be

considered by a complaints panel of the Governing Body by writing to the Chair of Governors c/o the school. The complaints panel will be formed of three governors who have had no prior involvement in the complaint; they will listen to you, to the Head teacher and, if appropriate, any others involved and come to a decision. You may bring a friend to the hearing if you wish.

The table below summarises the procedure:

Stage	Description	Timescale for receipt of complaint	Time-limit for school's response
Informal Stage 1	Informal discussions with relevant member of staff and/or Head teacher		As soon as possible but no later than 5 school days
Formal Stage 2	Written complaint to Head teacher (or Chair of Governors if complaint is about the Head teacher)	Within 10 school days of receipt of response to Stage 1	Acknowledge within 2 school days. Response normally within 5 school days
Formal Stage 3	Governors' Complaints Panel Hearing (Panel Members to be drawn from the Standards Committee)	Within 10 school days of response to Stage 2	Hearing set up within 15 school days with 10 days' notice of meeting. Agenda and papers sent out 7 days in advance. Decision letter within 2 school days

In all cases if any stage in the procedure is likely to take longer than publicised, parents will be informed of new timescales and the reasons for the delay.