

How to Raise Concerns or to Make a Complaint about the School

If you have a Concern or Complaint

We would like you to tell us about it. Be assured that no matter what the problem is, our support and respect for you and your child in school will not be affected in any way. Please tell us of your concern as soon as possible. It is difficult for us to investigate properly an incident or problem that happened some time ago.

What to do first

Most concerns and complaints can be sorted out quickly by speaking with your child's class teacher/head of year. Any teacher or member of the administrative staff can put you in contact with the right member of staff.

If you have a complaint that you feel should be looked at by the head teacher in the first instance you can contact him/her straightaway if you prefer. It is usually best to discuss the problem face to face. You may need an appointment to do this, and can make one by ringing or calling into the school office. You can take a friend or relation to the appointment with you if you would like to.

All staff will make every effort to resolve your problem informally. They will make sure that they understand what you feel went wrong, and they will explain their own actions to you. They will ask what you would like the school to do to put things right. Of course, this does not mean that in every case they will come round to your point of view but it will help both you and the school to understand both sides of the question. It may also help to prevent a similar problem arising again.

What to do next

If you are dissatisfied with the initial response, or if you do not want to discuss the matter informally, you can make a complaint. This will need to be in writing. Contact the school office if you would like some help putting your complaint in writing.

You may find it helpful at this stage to have a copy of the full statement or the school's complaints procedure as this explains in details what processes are followed. *This is available from the school office and on the school website.*

If your complaint is about an action of the head teacher personally, then you should refer it to the chair of governors. Contact details can be obtained from the school office.

The head teacher will ask to meet you to discuss the problem. You may bring a friend or someone else for support. The head teacher will arrange a full investigation of the complaint and may interview any members of staff or pupils involved. You will receive a written response to your complaint.

If you are Still Unhappy

Most complaints are resolved at this stage. However, if you are still not satisfied you may wish to contact the chair of the governing body to ask for an investigation by the chair of governors or a referral of your complaint to a governors' complaints committee. It will then be heard by a group of three or five governors who have no previous knowledge of the problem and so will be given a fresh assessment. You will be invited to attend and speak to the panel at a meeting that the head teacher will also attend. The complaints procedure sets out in more detail how these meetings operate.

Further Action

Complaints about school problems are almost always settled within schools but if they remain unresolved they can be referred to the Secretary of State for Education. The Department for Education will expect the complaint to have been considered by the school governors first. Complaints about academies are handled by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education. There is more detail in the full complaints procedure, on the school's website or on the Department for Education website (www.education.gov.uk/schoolcomplaints).

Complaint Form

Please complete and return to the school/academy office, marked 'CONFIDENTIAL' for the attention of the Head Teacher

Your name:
Pupil's name:
Your relationship to the pupil:
Address:
Postcode:
Daytime telephone number:
Evening telephone number:
Please give details of your complaint.

**What action, if any, have you already taken to try and resolve your complaint?
(Who did you speak to and what was the response?)**

What actions do you feel might resolve the problem at this stage?

Are you attaching any paperwork? If so, please give details.

Signature:

Date:

Official use

Date acknowledgement sent:

By who:

Complaint referred to:

Date: