



St Hilary School Complaints Policy

Introduction

The school provides a high standard of education for all our children, and the headteacher and other staff work very hard to build positive relationships with all parents. However, the school is obliged to have procedures in place in case there are complaints by parents. The following policy sets out the procedure that the school follows in such cases. We deal with all complaints in accordance with procedures set out by the DfE. If the school cannot resolve any complaint itself, those concerned can ask the DfE to intervene. All parents/carers have the right, as a last resort, to appeal to the Secretary of State for Education, if they still feel that their complaint has not been properly addressed.

Rationale

Our school aims to be fair, open and honest when dealing with any complaint. We give careful consideration to all complaints and deal with them as swiftly as possible. We aim to resolve any complaint through dialogue and mutual understanding and, in all cases, we put the interests of the child above all other issues. We provide sufficient opportunity for any complaint to be fully discussed, and then resolved.

The complaints process

If a parent is concerned about anything to do with the education that we are providing at our school, they should, in the first instance, discuss the matter with their child's class teacher. Most matters of concern can be dealt with in this way. All teachers work very hard to ensure that each child is happy at school, and is making good progress; they always want to know if there is a problem, so that they can take action before the problem seriously affects the child's progress.

Where a parent feels that a situation has not been resolved through contact with the class teacher, or that their concern is of a sufficiently serious nature, they should make an appointment to discuss it with the headteacher (Mrs K Butcher). The headteacher considers any such complaint very seriously and investigates each case thoroughly. Most complaints are normally resolved at this stage.

Should a parent have a complaint about the headteacher, s/he should first make an informal approach to one of the members of the governing body, who is obliged to investigate it. The governor in question will do all s/he can to resolve the issue through a dialogue with the school, but if a parent is unhappy with the outcome, s/he can make a formal complaint, as outlined below.

Only if an informal complaint fails to resolve the matter, should a formal complaint be made to the governing body. This complaint must be made in writing, stating the nature

of the complaint and how the school has handled it so far. The parent should send this written complaint to the Chair of Governors- Mr Dave Sharp.

The governing body must consider all written complaints within three weeks of receipt. It arranges a meeting to discuss the complaint, and invites the person making it to attend the meeting, so that s/he can explain her complaint in more detail. The school gives the complainant at least three days' notice of the meeting.

After hearing all the evidence, the governors consider their decision and inform the parent about it in writing. The governors do all they can at this stage to resolve the complaint.

If the complaint is not resolved, a parent/carer may make representation to the DfE. Further information about this process is available from the school or from the DfE.

If any parent/carer is still not content that the complaint has been dealt with properly, then s/he is entitled to appeal to the Secretary of State for Education.

Complaints regarding children with special educational needs and the support provided by the school

Any complaints regarding children with special educational needs and the support provided by the school should be logged with the special needs coordinator (Miss Michelle Brant) in the first instance. If the matter has not been resolved at this point, then this should be referred to the headteacher.

Monitoring and review

The governors monitor the complaints procedure, in order to ensure that all complaints are handled properly. The headteacher logs all complaints received by the school and records how they were resolved. Governors examine this log on an annual basis.

Governors take into account any local or national decisions that affect the complaints process, and make any modifications necessary to this policy. This policy is made available to all parents, so that they can be properly informed about the complaints process.

Contact details:

School secretary- Mrs Dot Whipp
secretary@st-hilary.cornwall.sch.uk

Headteacher- Mrs K Butcher
head@st-hilary.cornwall.sch.uk

SEND (Special educational needs and disability coordinator) - Miss M Brant
Michellebrant@st-hilary.cornwall.sch.uk

Chair of Governors- Mr D Sharp- dsharp@sthilaryschool.co.uk

Date reviewed: 17/09/17

To be reviewed: Autumn 2019