



School Complaints Procedure

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.

Rougemont School is divided into two sections: the Preparatory School and the Senior School. The day-to-day direction of the Preparatory School rests with the Head of the Preparatory School, to whom any complaints should be made.

Stage 1 – Informal Resolution

It is hoped that most complaints and concerns will be resolved quickly and informally.

(a) Preparatory School

If parents have a complaint they should contact the Head of the Preparatory School, who may refer the complaint to a member of the Preparatory School staff. In many cases, the matter will be resolved straightaway by this means to the parents' satisfaction. If the Head of the Preparatory School cannot resolve the matter alone, it may be necessary for him/her to consult the Head of Rougemont School. Complaints made directly to the Head of Rougemont School will usually be referred to the Head of the Preparatory School unless the Head of Rougemont School deems it appropriate for him/her to deal with the matter personally.

The Head of the Preparatory School 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 Head of the Preparatory School 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.

(b) Senior School

If parents have a complaint they should contact their son/daughter's Head of Year. In many cases, the matter will be resolved straightaway by this means to the parents' satisfaction. If the Head of Year cannot resolve the matter alone, it may be necessary for him/her to consult the Deputy Heads of Senior School or Head of Rougemont School. Complaints made directly to the Deputy Heads of Senior School or Head of Rougemont School will usually be referred to the relevant Head of Year unless the Deputy Head of Senior School or Head of Rougemont School deems it appropriate for him/her to deal with the matter personally.

The Head of Year 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 Head of Year 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 of Rougemont School. 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 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 his/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 Chairman of Governors, 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 at least three persons not directly involved in the matters detailed in the complaint, one of whom shall be independent of the management and running of the school. Each of the Panel members shall be appointed by the Chairman of Governors. The Chairman of Governors or the Chair of the Panel (if a different person), on behalf of the Panel, will then acknowledge the complaint and schedule a hearing 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 hearing. Copies of such particulars shall be supplied to all parties not later than three 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 facts they consider relevant, the Panel will reach a decision and may make recommendations, which it shall complete within ten 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.

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. The School keeps a written record of all complaints, and the number of complaints registered in the previous academic year under the formal procedure can be obtained on request from the Head.