



Grievance (Complaints) Procedure for Parents

Only those complaints about teachers which are written and signed by parents/guardians of pupils may be investigated formally by the Board of Management. Unwritten complaints may be processed informally as set out in Stage 1 of this procedure.

Stage 1

1. A parent/ legal guardian who wishes to make a complaint in respect of their own child, should seek an appointment with the teacher with a view to resolving the complaint. Further meetings with the teacher can be convened as appropriate.
2. Where the parent/ legal guardian is unable to resolve the complaint with the class teacher s/he should approach the Principal with a view to resolving it. Further meetings can be convened by the Principal as appropriate.
3. Where the complaint remains unresolved, the parent/ legal guardian should seek an appointment with the Chairperson of the Board of Management with a view to resolving the complaint. Further meetings can be convened by the Chairperson as appropriate.

The complaint may be resolved at this stage.

Stage 2

1. If complaint has not been resolved at Stage 1, the parent/ legal guardian who wishes to pursue the matter further should submit the complaint in writing to the Chairperson of the Board. This commences stage 2.
2. The Chairperson should provide a copy of the written complaint to the teacher against whom the complaint has been made, without delay.
3. The Chairperson should seek to resolve the complaint between the teacher and the parent/ legal guardian within **10 school days** of the commencement of stage 2.1. This may require one or more meetings to be convened by the Chairperson with the teacher/ parent/ legal guardian and other school personnel as deemed appropriate by the Chairperson.

The complaint may be resolved at this stage.

Stage 3

1. If the complaint remains unresolved following stage 2 and the parent/ legal guardian wishes to pursue the matter, they should inform the Chairperson in writing of this fact. The Chairperson should make a formal report to the Board of Management within **10 days** of receipt of this written statement. At this meeting, the Board can decide to proceed to either stage 3.2 or 3.3.
2. Where the Board considers the complaint, the process may be concluded at this stage, if the board considers that:
 - a) The complaint is frivolous/ vexatious;
 - b) The complaint has already been investigated by the Board;
 - c) The complaint is more appropriately dealt with through a more relevant DE circular

Or;

- d) Where recourse to law has been initiated.

Where the Board determines the complaint is concluded at this stage, the parent/ legal guardian should be so informed within **5 days** of the Board meeting.

3. Where the Board decides to proceed to a hearing, it should proceed as follows:
 - a) The teacher should be informed that the complaint is proceeding to a full hearing and the Chairperson must ensure the teacher has been supplied with all documents which are being considered by the Board.
 - b) The Board should arrange a meeting with the parent/ legal guardian if it considers such to be required. The parent/ legal guardian is entitled to be accompanied and assisted by a friend at any such meeting.
 - c) The teacher should be afforded an opportunity to make a presentation of their case to the Board. The teacher is entitled to be represented by a friend or a union representative, who may be accompanied for the purpose of assistance and note taking.
 - d) The teacher should be requested to supply a written statement to the Board as the employer in response to the complaint. This written statement will be confidential to the employer and will not be shared with any third party.
 - e) The meeting of the Board of Management referred to in 3(b), (c) and (d) will take place within **10 days** of the meeting referred to in 3.1. in so far as possible.

Stage 4:

1. The Board will consider the complaint and the response provided and will adjudicate on the matter. The Chairperson should convey the decision of the Board in writing to the teacher and the parent/ legal guardians with **5 days** of the meeting held at stage 3.3.
2. The decision of the Board shall be final.

Ratified: 20/2/24

Signed: Joan O'Dwyer
Chairperson B.O.M.

Date: 20/2/24