

Management of Complaints

POLICY STATEMENT

Our service will maintain a complaints and grievance management system to ensure that all educators, families and communities members know that complaints and grievances will be taken seriously and investigated promptly and fairly. Complaints and grievances will be investigated and documented in a timely manner. Our complaints and grievance management procedure will be promoted in the parent and staff handbook. We will identify complaints and grievances as opportunities to improve the quality of our service.

PROCEDURE

The service will support an individual's right to complain and will help them to make their complaints clear and try to resolve them.

A complaint can be informal or formal. It can be anything an individual thinks is unfair or which makes them unhappy with the service.

Families will be provided with clear written guidelines detailing the grievance procedure, in the parent handbook.

All confidential conversations with individuals who have a complaint or grievance will take place in a quiet place away from children, other families or staff that are not involved.

If an individual has a complaint or comment about the service, they will be encouraged to talk to the Coordinator who will arrange a time to discuss their concern and come to a resolution to address the issue.

If the complaint is not handled at this level to the satisfaction of the person making the complaint, they should discuss the issue with the Chairperson or liaison person of the Management, either in writing or verbally.

Management will discuss the issue with the Coordinator and develop a strategy for resolving the problem, this would be discussed further with the individual or if necessary a meeting will be organised with the Coordinator and individual to resolve the problem.

All complaints will be recorded and dated indicating the issue of concern and how it was resolved. All information on complaints and grievances will include evidence that complaints are investigated within satisfactory timeframes and have led to amendments to policies and procedures where required.

The Coordinator or management will inform the person making the complaint of what has been decided regarding the issue. Staff will also be informed of any relevant issues that they need to address or be aware of. This could be done verbally or if the issue has been dealt with on a more formal basis then the committee or Coordinator will write personally to the individual making the complaint.

If any complaint cannot be resolved internally to the person's satisfaction, external options will be offered such as an unbiased third party.

All complaints that come about as a result of a serious incident will be notified to the Regulatory Authority within the prescribes timeframe as per regulations.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Education and Care Services National Law & Regulations	National Quality Standards & Elements	Links to other Service Policies	Other Documentation/ Evidence
S174 r168, 175, 176	Standards 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2 Elements 1.3.3, 2.1.1, 2.2.2, 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 6.2.3, 7.1.2, 7.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy • Excursion Policy • Authorisations and Refusals Policy • Confidentiality Policy • Governance and Management Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Services Complaints, Appeals and Monitoring Act, 1994. • Parent Handbook • Staff Handbook • Enrolment Form • Complaints records and notifications

ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE:

Approval Date: April 2019

Date for Review: April 2022