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1. AIMS

The Trust aims to resolve all complaints at the earliest possible stage and is dedicated to continuing to provide the highest quality of education possible throughout the procedure.

This policy has been created to deal with any complaint against a member of staff or the Trust as a whole, relating to any aspect of the Trust or the provision of facilities or services.

Any person, including a member of the public, is able to make a complaint about the provision of facilities or services that the Trust provides. This policy outlines the procedure that the complainant and Trust must follow.

When responding to complaints, we aim to:

- Be impartial and non-adversarial.
- Facilitate a full and fair investigation by an independent person or panel, where necessary.
- Address all the points at issue and provide an effective and prompt response.
- Respect complainants' desire for confidentiality.
- Treat complainants with respect and courtesy.
- Make sure that any decisions we make are lawful, rational, reasonable, fair, and proportionate, in line with the principles of administrative law.
- Keep complainants informed of the progress of the complaints process.
- Consider how the complaint can feed into school improvement evaluation processes.

We try to resolve concerns or complaints by informal means wherever possible. Where this is not possible, formal procedures will be followed.

Complaints should be made using the appropriate channels of communication, including the Complaints Procedure Form. Complainants should ensure that they follow each of the stages outlined within the policy in order.

Any formal complaint must be raised within 3 months of the incident occurring. If a complaint is older than 3 months, it will only be investigated in exceptional circumstances.

Throughout the process, we will be sensitive to the needs of all parties involved, and make any reasonable adjustments needed to accommodate individuals.

Please note that when a complaint is related to a child protection or safeguarding concern, you must consider the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

This policy is available on the Trust/Academy website and can be provided in hard copy on request.

2. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This policy meets the requirements of section 29 of the Education Act 2002, which states that schools must have and make available a procedure to deal with all complaints relating to their school and to any community facilities or services that the school provides.

It meets the requirements set out in part 7 of the schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, which states that we must have and make available a written procedure to deal with complaints from parents/carers of students in the school.

It is also based on guidance published by the Department of Education (DfE) on creating a complaints procedure that complies with the above regulations and refers to good practice guidance on setting up complaint procedures, including the model procedure and model procedure for dealing with serial and unreasonable complaints.

This policy complies with the relevant funding agreements and articles of association.

In addition, it addresses duties set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework with regards to dealing with complaints about the Academy/Trust's fulfilment of Early Years Foundation Stage requirements.

3. DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE

The DfE guidance explains the difference between a concern and a complaint:

- A **concern** can be defined as 'an expression of worry or doubt over an issue considered to be important for which reassurances are sought'.
- A **complaint** can be defined as 'an expression of dissatisfaction, however made, about actions taken or a lack of action'.

The Academy/Trust intends to resolve complaints informally where possible, at the earliest possible stage.

There may be occasions when complainants would like to raise their concerns formally. This policy outlines the procedure relating to handling such complaints.

This policy does not cover complaint procedures relating to:

- Admissions
- Statutory assessments of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)
- Suspension and permanent exclusion
- Whistleblowing
- Staff grievances
- Staff discipline
- Withdrawal from the curriculum (parents and carers can withdraw their child from any aspect of religious education, including the daily act of collective worship. They do not have to explain why)
- Internal assessment decisions in relation to external qualifications
- Data Subject Access Requests (DSAR) or Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests.

Separate policies and procedures are in place relating to these types of complaint.

Complaints about services provided by other providers who use our premises or facilities should be directed to the provider concerned.

4. PERSISTENT VEXATIOUS OR HARRASSING COMPLAINTS

Most individuals with concerns or complaints about the Academy/Trust will behave reasonably in pursuing their complaint. This means that they:

- Treat all Academy/Trust staff with courtesy and respect.
- Respect the needs of students and staff within the Academy/Trust.
- Avoid the use of violence (including threats of violence) towards people and property.

- Do not use intimidating/aggressive behaviour or inappropriate language towards Academy/Trust staff.
- Recognise the time constraints under which members of staff work and allow the Academy/Trust a reasonable time to respond to a complaint.
- Recognise that resolving a specific problem can sometimes take some time.
- Follow the Trust's complaints procedures.

A small number of complainants may be deemed unreasonably persistent complainants. This means that, in complaining about issues, the complainant behaves unreasonably, for example:

- Are obsessive, persistent, harassing, prolific, repetitious.
- Use prolific correspondence, excessive email or telephone contact about a concern or complaint.
- Use social media to make comments in relation to the complaint, the Academy/Trust or individuals that work with the Academy/Trust.
- Insist on pursuing unmeritorious complaints and/or unrealistic or unreasonable outcomes.
- Insist on pursuing meritorious complaints in an unreasonable manner.

A complaint may be regarded as unreasonable or disregarded if the complainant:

- Is anonymous.
- Refuses to articulate their complaint or to specify the grounds of the complaint.
- Refuses to co-operate with the complaints investigation process while still wishing for their complaint to be resolved.
- Refuses to accept that certain issues are not within the scope of the complaints procedure.
- Insists on the complaint being dealt with in ways which are incompatible with the complaints procedure or good practice.
- Introduces trivial or irrelevant information, raises large numbers of detailed but unimportant questions to be dealt with to their own timescales.
- Makes unjustified complaints about staff who are trying to deal with the issues and seeks to have them replaced.
- Changes the basis of the complaint as the investigation proceeds.
- Repeatedly makes the same complaint (despite previous investigations or responses concluding that the complaint is groundless or has been addressed).
- Refuses to accept the findings of the investigation into the complaint, where the Trust complaints procedure has been fully and properly implemented and completed at the appropriate stage, including referral to the DfE.
- Seeks an unrealistic outcome.
- Makes excessive demands on Academy/Trust time by frequent, lengthy, complicated and stressful contact with staff regarding the complaint, in person, in writing, by email and/or by telephone while the complaint is being dealt with.

In addition, a complaint may also be considered unreasonable if the complainant does so in any of the following manners or circumstances:

- Maliciously.
- Aggressively.
- Using threats, intimidation or violence.
- Using abusive, offensive or discriminatory language. Knowing it to be false.
- Using falsified information.
- Publishing unacceptable information in a variety of media such as social media websites and newspapers.

5. DUPLICATE COMPLAINTS

If the Academy or Trust has resolved a complaint under this procedure and received a duplicate complaint on the same subject from a partner, family member or other individual, the Academy or Trust will assess whether there are aspects that we had not previously considered, or any new information that needs to be taken into account.

If the Academy or Trust is satisfied that there are no new aspects, it will:

- Tell the new complainant that the issue has already been investigated and responded to, and that the local process is complete.
- Direct them to the DfE if they are dissatisfied with the original handling of the complaint.

If a duplicate complaint is raised which in the view of the Trust warrants further consideration, the complaints procedure will be repeated.

6. COMPLAINT CAMPAIGNS

Where the Academy or Trust receives a large volume of complaints about the same topic or subject, especially if these come from complainants unconnected with the organisation, the Academy or Trust may respond to these complaints by publishing a single response on the Academy or Trust website or sending a template response to all the complainants.

The decision to stop responding will not be taken lightly and will only be taken on the advice of the Chief Executive Officer and/or Chair of the Trust Board if they believe that all reasonable steps have been taken to address the complainant's needs and that the Academy and/or Trust's position has been stated clearly and despite this, the complainant is refusing to accept the decision, making the same points repeatedly.

Throughout the process of managing a complaint, particularly if it is considered to be an unreasonable or persistent complaint, or one that targets an individual member of staff, the Trust will ensure that it provides an appropriate level of support for the individual concerned.

Whenever possible, the Principal/Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer (or representative) will discuss any concerns with the complainant informally before applying an 'unreasonable' marking.

If the behaviour continues, the Academy/Trust will write a formal letter explaining that their behaviour is unreasonable and asking the complainant to change it. The Academy/Trust may specify methods of communication and limit the number of contacts with the Academy/Trust in a communication plan. This will usually be reviewed after six months.

Should a complaint meet the criteria as "unreasonable" as outlined in the lists above, this will be stated in a formal letter to the complainant and there would be no grounds for the complaint to be escalated further.

In response to any serious incident of aggression or violence, the concerns and actions will be put in writing immediately and the police informed. This may result in banning an individual from the Academy and/or other Trust premises.

7. SUMMARY FOR DEALING WITH GENERAL COMPLAINTS

The Trust Complaints Policy has four main stages as detailed in the table below.

Each stage should be completed before progressing to the next stage.

A school day is defined as a term time day, excluding Inset Days.

Stage	Detail	Outcome for Complaint
Stage One: Informal	Expression of concern is raised to an appropriate member of Academy/Trust staff and escalated where appropriate at an informal stage to designated members of Academy/Trust staff. Wherever possible, informal concerns and/or complaints will be considered and responded to within 10 school days of the matter being brought to the academy's attention.	If a satisfactory outcome is reached, no further action required. If outcome is not satisfactory, proceed to formal stages.
Stage Two: Formal Investigation	Complainant submits a formal complaint using Stage Two Complaint Form, within 10 school days (after the response at Stage One). Acknowledgement sent within 5 school days. Investigation conducted by Lead Investigator, with the outcome of the complaint to be reviewed by the Academy Leader. Outcome reported to the complainant in writing within 15 school days.	If a satisfactory outcome is reached, no further action required. If outcome is not satisfactory, proceed to Stage Three.
Stage Three: Formal Complaint made to the Trust	Complainant submits the complaint using Stage Three Complaint Form, to the Trust within 10 school days of receiving the response to the Stage Two Investigation. Acknowledgement sent within 5 school days. Investigation conducted by a member of the Trust Executive Team. Outcome reported to the complainant and the Trust in writing within 15 school days of receipt of Stage 3 complaint.	If a satisfactory outcome is reached, no further action required. If outcome is not satisfactory, proceed to Stage Four.

Stage Four: Formal Complaints Panel	Complainant submits complaint using the Stage Four Complaint Form, to the Trust within 10 school days of receiving the response of the Stage Three response. Acknowledgement sent within 5 school days. Where criteria for a panel being convened is not met a response and rationale for this is provided in writing within 10 school days of receipt of the Stage Four complaint. Complaints Panel is convened within 15 school days of complaint being received where complaint meets criteria for a panel to be convened. One panel member to be independent of the management and running of the Academy and the Trust. Other panel members may be made up of Governors from any academy in the Trust and/or Trustees. The complainant and the Academy/Trust will be notified of the Complaints Panel decision within 15 school days of panel taking place.	There is no further right of appeal. If the complainant considers that the complaints procedure has not been followed correctly, they may contact the DfE.
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7. TIMESCALES

The complainant must raise the complaint within 3 months of the incident. If the complaint is about a series of related incidents, they must raise the complaint within 3 months of the last incident.

We will consider exceptions to this timeframe in circumstances where there were valid reasons for not making a complaint at that time and the complaint can still be investigated in a fair manner for all involved.

When complaints are made out of term time, we will consider them to have been received on the first school day after the holiday period.

If at any point we cannot meet the timescales we have set out in this policy, we will:

- Set new time limits with the complainant.
- Send the complainant details of the new deadline and explain the delay.

8. COMPLAINTS ABOUT OUR FULFILMENT OF EARLY YEARS REQUIREMENTS

We will investigate all written complaints relating to the Academy/Trust's fulfilment of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements and notify the complainant of the outcome within 28 days of receiving the complaint. The Academy/Trust will keep a record of the complaint and make this available to Ofsted on request.

Parents and carers can notify Ofsted if they believe that the Academy is not meeting Early Years Foundation Stage requirements by emailing enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk. An outline contact form is also available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted#org-contacts>.

We will notify parents and carers if we become aware that the Academy is to be inspected by Ofsted. We will also supply a copy of the inspection report to parents and carers of children attending the setting on a regular basis.

9. RESOLVING COMPLAINTS

At each stage in the procedure, the Trust will keep in mind ways in which a complaint can be resolved. It might be sufficient to acknowledge that the complaint is valid in whole or in part. In addition, it may be appropriate to offer one or more of the following:

- An apology.
- An explanation.
- An admission that the situation could have been handled differently or better.
- An assurance that the event complained of will not recur.
- An explanation of the steps that have been taken to ensure that it will not happen again.
- An undertaking of a review of procedures and policies, considering the complaint.

An admission that the Academy or Trust could have handled the situation better is not the same as an admission of negligence.

The Academy/Trust may investigate the complaint, consider all the evidence available and decide not to uphold the complaint.

10. USE OF COVERT RECORDINGS

Covert recordings - meaning any audio, video, or digital recording made without the knowledge and consent of all parties involved—are **not acceptable** within this Trust's Complaints process.

The Trust is committed to ensuring that all interactions take place in an atmosphere of trust, transparency, and mutual respect. Secretly recording conversations undermines this principle and may compromise the integrity and fairness of the complaints procedure.

For these reasons:

- **Covert recordings will not be accepted as evidence** and will not be considered when reviewing or investigating a complaint.

- Individuals participating in the complaints process are expected to communicate openly and honestly; secret recordings are inconsistent with these expectations.
- Where recording is necessary or helpful, **consent must be obtained in advance** from all participants, and the purpose, use, and storage of the recording must be made clear.
- If covert recording is discovered, the organisation may take appropriate action, which may include discontinuing the use of the recording, issuing guidance to the individual, or addressing any breach of policy through relevant procedures.

This approach ensures that the complaints process remains fair, respectful, and compliant with privacy and data protection requirements.

11. WITHDRAWAL OF A COMPLAINT

If a complainant wishes to withdraw their complaint, we will ask them to confirm this in writing.

12. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

12.1 STAGE ONE – INFORMAL CONCERN MADE TO A MEMBER OF STAFF

The Academy will take informal concerns seriously and make every effort to resolve the matter quickly. It may be the case that the provision or clarification of information will resolve the issue.

The individual should raise the concern as soon as possible with the relevant member of staff, either in person or by letter, telephone, or email. Within 10 school days, the individual and the relevant member of staff should discuss the issue in a respectful and informal manner to seek a mutual resolution.

It is important for the complainant to recognise that the Academy is a busy organisation and whilst we will do our best to offer face to face meetings, it may not be possible to offer an appointment immediately.

If a concern is raised about a member of staff, the colleague can discuss this with the Principal to seek support.

On occasion, the concern raised may require an informal investigation or discussion with other members of staff to refer the matter to someone else. In this case the member of staff will need to make a clear note of the date, name and contact details of the complainant. In this case we would expect you would receive an informal response to the investigation and be kept informed at regular intervals. The vast majority of concerns will be satisfactory dealt with in this way.

If an appropriate resolution cannot be sought at this informal level, or if the individual is dissatisfied with the outcome following the initial discussions, they may wish to proceed to the formal stage of the procedure. They should contact the Academy or Trust and refer to stage two of the complaint procedure within 10 school days, after the response is sent from Stage One.

12.2 STAGE TWO – FORMAL COMPLAINT MADE TO THE ACADEMY

Complaints will be escalated to Stage Two if the complainant is not satisfied with the way that the complaint has been dealt with at Stage One of the process.

The formal stage involves the complainant making a complaint to the Academy. This should be done using the Complaints Procedure Form (Appendix 1). Where there are communication difficulties, support in completing the complaints form will be available.

The complainant should provide details such as relevant dates, times, and the names of witnesses of events, alongside copies of any relevant documents. The complainant should also state what they are looking for as a resolution to the complaint.

Written acknowledgement of the complaint will be made within 5 school days. At this stage, the complaint will be dealt with by either a member of the Senior Leadership Team (Stage 2a) or the Principal (Stage 2b). The Principal will determine if the complaint can be dealt with by a member of SLT in the first instance and then action accordingly. Dealing with the matter at stage 2a of the Complaints Policy does not preclude involvement of the Principal at a later Stage (2b) in the process, if deemed necessary.

Stage Two of the process may involve a member of the Senior Leadership Team and/or Principal, and each sub-stage will be completed within 15 school days. Where the situation is recognised as complex, and it is deemed to be unable to be resolved within this timescale, the Principal/SLT will contact the complainant to inform them of the revised target date via a written notification.

If the complaint is against the Principal, the complainant will initially need to write, in confidence, to the Leader of Governance, Compliance and Executive Support using the Complaints Procedure Form contained within the policy (see Appendix 3).

Where the Principal or Senior Leader has made reasonable attempts to accommodate the complainant with dates for a complaint meeting and they refuse or are unable to attend, the meeting will be convened in their absence and a conclusion will be reached in the interests of drawing the complaint to a close. To prevent any later challenge or disagreement over what was said, brief notes of meetings and telephone calls are kept, and a copy of any written response is added to the record. These notes are kept securely on the Academy's ICT system and, where appropriate, encrypted.

In terms of a complaint being made against a member of staff, the Principal and/or SLT will discuss the issue with the staff member in question. Where necessary, the Principal and/or SLT will conduct interviews with any relevant parties, including witnesses and students, and take statements from those involved.

Once all facts are established, the Principal and/or Senior Leader shall contact the complainant in writing with an explanation of the decision. The complainant will be advised of any escalation options (for example, escalation to Stage Three) and will be provided with details of this process. Any further action the Academy plans to take to resolve the issue will be explained to the complainant in writing.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the response and wishes to proceed to the next stage of this procedure, they should inform the Leader of Governance, Compliance and Executive Support in writing within 10 school days.

12.3 STAGE THREE – FORMAL COMPLAINT MADE TO THE TRUST

Complaints will be escalated to Stage Three if the complainant is not satisfied with the way that the complaint has been dealt with at Stage Two of the process. The complainant should inform the Leader of Governance, Compliance and Executive Support (Appendix 2) in writing within 10 school days from receiving the Stage Two outcome. This should be done using the Complaints Procedure Form. Where there are communication difficulties, support in completing the complaints form will be available.

The complainant should provide details such as relevant dates, times, and the names of witnesses of events, alongside copies of any relevant documents. The complainant should also state what they are looking for as a resolution to the complaint.

Written acknowledgement of the complaint will be made within 5 school days. A member of the Trust's Executive Team will be appointed to conduct a formal investigation at Stage Three and must only review the initial complaint. Any further complaints that have arisen during this process have to be dealt with as separate complaints to the Academy at Stage One of the Complaints Policy.

The member of the Executive Team investigating the complaint will review the complaint and if required, conduct a further investigation. A response to the Stage Three complaint will be provided in writing. This will normally be within 15 school days. If further time is required to resolve the complaint at Stage Three, the complainant will be notified. The complaint cannot be moved to Stage Four until the Trust has fully responded to all aspects of the complaint at Stage Three.

The complainant will be advised of any escalation options (for example, escalation to Stage Four) and will be provided with details of this process.

12.4 STAGE FOUR – COMPLAINTS APPEAL PANEL (CAP) HEARING

Complaints will be escalated to the panel hearing stage if the complainant is not satisfied with the way that the complaint has been dealt with at Stage Three of the process. The complainant should inform the Leader of Governance, Compliance and Executive Support in writing within 10 school days of receiving their outcome letter. This should be done using the Complaints Procedure Form (Appendix 4). Where there are communication difficulties, support in completing the complaints form will be available.

The completed form must include the reasons why the complainant believes the complaint is unresolved by Stage Three procedure, along with solutions suggested to resolve the complaint.

Written acknowledgement of the complaint will be made within 5 school days. This will inform the complainant whether the complaint warrants an appeals panel meeting. If a hearing should be convened it will be done so within 15 school days.

The purpose of the Panel Hearing is to consider whether the complaint was investigated fairly and objectively at Stage Two and/or Stage Three of the process.

The Trust will instruct the designated member of staff acting as Clerk to convene a Complaints panel. This will be Chaired by any Trust Governor or Trustee who is independent of the complaint. The panel will usually be made up of three, two would be Governors or Trustees who have not been involved at a prior Stage of the complaint and the third member of the panel must be independent of the running / management of the Trust. This will usually take place within 15 school days of the request for a Stage Four Complaint Panel.

The Complaint Panel will aim to be convened within the agreed timescales subject to the availability of the complainant and the panel members. If a panel cannot be convened in a timely manner from the Governors of the Academy in question, Governors from other Trust Academies and/or Trustees may be asked to attend the panel hearing.

The meeting will be held in private. Electronic recordings of panel are not normally permitted unless a complainant's own disability or special needs require it. Prior knowledge and consent of all attending will be sought before the panel takes place. Consent will be recorded in any minutes taken.

At the panel hearing, the complainant and representatives from the Academy or Trust, as appropriate, will be present. Each will have an opportunity to set out written or oral submissions prior to the hearing.

The complainant must be allowed to attend the panel hearing and be accompanied if they wish. We don't encourage either party to bring legal representation but will consider it on a case-by-case basis. Representatives from the media are not permitted to attend.

At the hearing, all participants will have the opportunity to give statements and present their evidence, and witnesses will be called, as appropriate, to present their evidence.

The panel, the complainant and the Academy/Trust representative(s) will be given the chance to ask and reply to questions. Once the complainant and Academy/Trust representative(s) have presented their cases, they will be asked to leave, and evidence will then be considered.

The panel will then put together its findings and recommendations from the case.

The panel can:

- Uphold the complaint, in whole or part.
- Dismiss the complaint, in whole or part.

The Complaints Panel must also:

- Decide on the appropriate action to be taken to resolve the complaint where it is not dismissed in whole.
- Make recommendations to changes to the Academy/Trust's systems or procedures to ensure that problems of a similar nature do not recur where the complaint is not dismissed in whole.
- Make findings as a result of the complaint and ensure that a copy of these findings and any recommendations are:
 - Available for inspection on the Academy premises by the Board of Trustees and the Principal / Executive Director.
 - Provided in a written format to the complainant and respondent.

The complainant and relevant respondent will receive a written response detailing the panel's findings and recommendations within 15 school days. This letter will also explain whether there are any further rights of appeal and to whom they need to be addressed.

Where relevant, the person complained about will receive a summary of the panel's findings and recommendations. The complainant and respondent will also receive a copy of the minutes, subject to any necessary redactions under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR.

13. NEXT STEPS

Stage Four is the final stage of the Trust complaints procedure. The decision of the panel is final. If the complainant remains unsatisfied, they may take their complaint to the DfE.

The DfE will not normally reinvestigate the substance of complaints or overturn any decisions made by the Trust. They will consider whether the Trust has adhered to education legislation and any statutory policies connected with the complaint and whether they have followed part 7 of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulation 2014. The complainant can refer their complaint to the DfE online at: [How DfE handles complaints about academies - GOV.UK](#), or by writing to:

14. BARRING FROM THE PREMISES

The Academy and Trust premises are private property and therefore any individual may be barred from entering the premises.

If an individual's behaviour is cause for concern, the Principal will ask the individual to leave the premises. The Principal or Executive Director will notify the parties involved in writing, explaining that their implied licence for access to the premises has been temporarily revoked and why, subject to any representations that the individual may wish to make.

The individual involved will be given the opportunity to formally express their views regarding the decision to bar them. This decision to bar will be reviewed by the Chair of Governors or a committee of governors, considering any discussions following the incident. If the decision is made to continue the bar, the individual will be contacted in writing, informing them of how long the bar will be in place, they will also be informed of when the decision will be reviewed.

Anyone wishing to make a complaint regarding a barring order can do so in writing, including email, to the Principal or Chair of Governors.

Once the Trust's complaints procedure is completed, the only remaining avenue of appeal is through the Courts.

15. RECORD KEEPING

The Academy and Trust will record the progress of all complaints, including information about actions taken at all stages, the stage at which the complaint was resolved, and the final outcome. The records will also include copies of letters or emails, and notes relating to meetings and phone calls.

The record log will explicitly detail;

- Whether complaints were resolved formally or proceeded to panel; and
- What actions were taken as a result of the complaint, whether upheld or not.

This material will be treated as confidential and held centrally and will be viewed only by those involved in investigating the complaint or on the Stage Four panel and will be summarised for review when updating the Executive and Trust Board as detailed in Section 16, Learning Lessons.

This is except where the Secretary of State (or someone acting on their behalf) or the complainant requests access to records of a complaint through a freedom of information (FOI) request or through a subject access request under the terms of the Data Protection Act, or where the material must be made available during a school inspection.

Records of complaints will be kept securely, only for as long as necessary and in line with data protection law, our Privacy Notices and Records Management Policy.

The details of the complaint, including the names of individuals involved, will not be shared with the Local Governance Committee or Trust Board in case an appeal panel needs to be organised at a later point.

Where the Local Governance Committee is aware of the substance of the complaint before the appeal panel stage, the Trust will arrange for an independent panel to hear the complaint.

Complainants also have the right to request an independent panel if they believe there is likely to be bias in the proceedings.

16. LEARNING LESSONS

The Trust Board and/or Chief Executive Officer will review any underlying issues raised by complaints with the relevant Executive Director, Principal and/or staff member, where appropriate, and respecting confidentiality, to determine whether there are any improvements that the Academy or Trust can make to its procedures or practice to help prevent similar events in the future.

17. POLICY REVIEW

Trustees will review the policy, its implementation and effectiveness annually or where DfE guidance or recommended codes of practise dictate a review.

APPENDIX 1 – STAGE 2 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE FORM

(Please complete and return to the Academy for the attention of the Principal).

Your Name:	Address:
Student's Name:	
Daytime telephone number:	
Evening telephone number:	
Email:	Postcode:
Please give details of your complaint:	
When did you raise your concern/complaint with the Academy or Trust?	
What action, if any, have you already taken to try and resolve your complaint? <i>(Who did you speak to and what was the response?)</i>	
What are you looking for as the resolution to the concern/complaint?	
Signed:	Date:

For a Word version of this form please contact – complaints@placepartnership.com

APPENDIX 2 – STAGE 3 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE FORM FOLLOWING A STAGE 2 COMPLAINT

If you are not satisfied with the decision of the Stage 2 investigation, please complete this form and return to the Leader of Governance, Compliance and Executive Support.

This form should be completed and submitted within 5 school days of receipt of the Stage 2 response for the complaint to be progressed.

Name:	
Date Stage 2 response received:	
Please give details of why you are not satisfied with the Stage 2 response:	
What actions do you feel might resolve the problem at this stage?	
Are you attaching any new paperwork/evidence? If so, please give details.	
Signed:	Date:

For a Word version of this form please contact – complaints@placepartnership.com

APPENDIX 3 – STAGE 3 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE FORM FOR COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST THE PRINCIPAL

If your complaint is against the Principal, please complete this form and return to the Leader of Governance, Compliance and Executive Support.

Name:	
Date Stage 2 response received:	
Please give details of why you are not satisfied with the Stage 2 response:	
What actions do you feel might resolve the problem at this stage?	
Are you attaching any new paperwork/evidence? If so, please give details.	
Signed:	Date:

For a Word version of this form please contact – complaints@placepartnership.com

APPENDIX 4 – STAGE 4 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE FORM

If you are not satisfied with decision of the Stage 3 response, please complete this form and return to the Leader of Governance, Compliance and Executive Support.

This form should be completed and submitted within 5 school days of receipt of the Stage 3 response for the complaint to be progressed.

Name:	
Date Stage 3 response received:	
Please state the reason you are not satisfied with the Stage 3 response:	
What actions do you feel might resolve the problem at this stage?	
Signed:	Date:

For a Word version of this form please contact – complaints@placepartnership.com