

# THE VICTORY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The Victory Primary School prides 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.

### **Stage 1 - Informal Resolution**

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

If parents have a complaint they should normally contact their son/daughter's teacher. In many cases, the matter will be resolved immediately by this means to the parents' satisfaction. If the teacher cannot resolve the matter alone, it may be necessary for him/her to consult a senior member of staff, or the Headteacher.

The teacher 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 a week, or in the event that the teacher 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 Headteacher. The Headteacher will decide, after considering the complaint, upon the appropriate course of action to take.

In most cases, the Headteacher will speak to the parents concerned, normally within 3 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 Headteacher (or the Deputy) to carry out further investigations.

The Headteacher will keep written records of all meetings and interviews held in relation to the complaint. Once he 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 Headteacher will also give reasons for his 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 should write to the Clerk to the Governors, who will refer the matter to the Chairman of Governors.

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 Clerk to the Governors, on behalf of the Panel, who will then acknowledge the complaint and schedule a hearing to take place as soon as practicable, and normally within 10 working 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 5 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 5 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 recommendations, if any, will be sent in writing to the parents, the Headteacher, the Governors and, where relevant, the person to whom the complaint refers.

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 the Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations 2010; where disclosure is required in the course of the school's inspection; or where any other legal obligation prevails.

In the event that the complaint refers specifically to the Headteacher, the matter should be referred in the first instance in writing to the Clerk to the Governors.

Parents are also free to make a complaint directly to the relevant regulatory body:

Academies:

- OFSTED: Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD