



Gaelscoil Choráin

Eochail

Nósanna Imeachta Maidir le Gearáin ó Thuismitheoirí

Parental Complaints Procedure

Réasúnaíocht / Rationale:

The Board of Management of **Gaelscoil Chóraín [Uimhir Rolla – 19833F]** has adopted the Complaints Procedure, agreed by the teachers' union and management bodies, which provides a mechanism for dealing with parental complaints against a teacher as set out in Section 28 of the Education Act 1998.

Nasc le hÉiteas na Scoile / Relationship to School Ethos:

The school promotes positive home – school contacts and endeavours to enhance the self-esteem of everyone within the school community. The policy contributes towards those ideals.

Aidhmeanna- Cospóirí / Aims-Objectives:

To foster fruitful and trusting relationships between school and parent(s) / guardian(s)

- ❖ To afford parent(s) / guardian(s) an opportunity to express opinions/grievances through the framework of a defined procedure
- ❖ To minimize the opportunity for conflict by providing parent(s) / guardian(s) an opportunity to liaise with the class teacher.

Réamhrá / Introduction:

Only those complaints about teachers which are written and signed by parent(s)/guardian(s) of pupils may be investigated formally by the Board of Management, except where those complaints are deemed by the Board to be:

- matters of professional competence and which are to be referred to the Department of Education & Science
- frivolous or vexatious and which do not impinge on the work of a teacher in a school
- complaints in which either party has recourse to law or to another existing procedure.

Unwritten complaints not in the above categories may be processed informally as set out in Stage 1 of this procedure.

Céim / Stage 1:

- 1.1 A parent/guardian who wishes to make a complaint should approach the class teacher with a view to resolving the complaint.
- 1.2 Where the parent/guardian is unable to resolve the complaint with the class teacher she/he should approach the Principal Teacher with a view to resolving it.

Céim / Stage 2:

- 2.1 If the complaint is still unresolved and the parent/guardian wishes to pursue the matter further she/he should lodge the complaint in writing with the Chairperson of the Board of Management.
- 2.2 The Chairperson should bring the precise nature of the written complaint to the notice of the teacher and seek to resolve the matter between the parties within 5 days of receipt of the written complaint.

Céim / Stage 3:

- 3.1 If the complaint is not resolved informally, the Chairperson should, subject to the general authorisation of the Board and except in those cases where the Chairperson deems the particular authorisation of the Board to be required:
 - a) Supply the teacher with a copy of the written complaint; and
 - b) Arrange a meeting / series of meetings, with all relevant parties and as appropriate, with a view to resolving the complaint. Such meeting(s) should take place within 10 days of receipt of the written complaint.

Céim / Stage 4:

- 4.1 If the complaint is still not resolved the Chairperson should make a formal report to the Board within 10 days of the meeting referred to in 3.1 (b)
- 4.2 If the Board considers that the complaint is not substantiated the teacher and the complainant should be so informed, in writing, within 3 days of the Board meeting.
- 4.3 If the Board considers that the complaint is substantiated or that it warrants further investigation it proceeds as follows:

- a. The teacher should be informed that the investigation is proceeding to the next stage;
- b. The teacher should be supplied with a copy of any written evidence in support of the complaint;
- c. The teacher should be requested to supply a written statement to the Board in response to the complaint;
- d. The teacher should be afforded an opportunity to make a presentation of the case to the Board. The teacher would be entitled to be accompanied and assisted by a friend at any such meeting;
- e. The meeting of the Board of Management referred to in (d) and (e) will take place within 10 days of the meeting referred to in 3.1 (b)

Céim / Stage 5:

- 5.1 When the Board has completed its investigation, the Chairperson should convey the decision of the Board in writing to the teacher and the complainant within 5 days of the meeting of the Board.
- 5.2 The decision of the Board shall be final.

In this policy ‘days’ means school days.

Dul chun cinn / Success Criteria:

- ❖ Swift and efficient resolution of grievances
- ❖ Parent-Guardian / Teacher satisfaction
- ❖ Positive school community feedback
- ❖ Reviews of school policies as issues arise.

Cur i bhfeidhm / Implementation:

This policy has been formally ratified by the Board of Management on **18/01/2022** and is effective from this date. It will be reviewed thereafter on an annual basis. In this agreement days means school days.

Síniú: Antóin Ó Laoire

Cathaoirleach An Bhoird Bhainistíochta