

Complaints Policy and Procedure

Greenside School



Greenside School
Learning Achieving Together

Approved by: Full Governing Body

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Introduction

This policy provides detailed information regarding how the complaints process is undertaken at Greenside School. It is based on the model policy and guidance from Hertfordshire County Council.

Section 29 of the Education Act 2002 requires all maintained School Governing Bodies to adopt and publicise a complaints procedure for Parents. This includes complaints about any community facilities or services that the school provides.

Previous legislation still applies. In particular, 1991 SEN Information Regulations require Governing bodies of schools to publicise their complaint procedures in relation to SEND and the 1996 Education Act requires the LA to establish procedures for disputes between schools and Parents about SEN provision.

A summary document has been prepared for parents and carers (Appendix 1), a formal complaints form (appendix 2), a Flowchart Summary of process (Appendix 3) and governors can use 'A toolkit for Governors' available by HfL

Who can make a complaint?

This complaints process is not limited only to parents or carers of children that are registered on roll at the School. Other people, including members of the public, may make a complaint to our School, provided that the complaint relates to the provision of facilities or services that we provide. Any issues for which a separate statutory process applies (such as appeals regarding exclusions or admissions) do not fall within the scope of this process. The School will confirm to you upon receipt whether or not your complaint falls under this policy and procedure and what will happen next if it does. For issues that fall outside of this policy and procedure, the School will confirm the correct process that applies instead.

The difference between a concern and a complaint

We define a concern as *'an expression of worry or doubt over an issue considered to be important for which reassurances are sought'*.

We define a complaint as *'an expression of dissatisfaction however made, about actions taken or a lack of action that requires an investigation and formal response in writing'*.

It is in everybody's interest that concerns and complaints are resolved as swiftly as possible. Many issues can be resolved informally, without needing to escalate to the formal stages of the complaints process. Greenside School takes concerns seriously and we will make every effort to resolve matters as quickly as possible.

If you have difficulty discussing a concern with a particular member of staff, we will respect your views. In such cases, you will be referred to another staff member. Similarly, if the member of staff directly involved feels unable to deal with your concerns, you will be referred to another staff member. The member of staff may be more senior but does not have to be. The ability to consider the concern objectively and impartially is the most important factor.

Greenside School understands however, that there are some occasions when people only wish to raise their concerns formally. In such instances, the School will attempt to resolve the issue(s) internally, through the stages outlined within this complaints policy and procedure.

How to raise a concern or make a complaint

A concern or complaint can be made in person, in writing or by telephone. They may also be made by a third party acting on behalf on a complainant, provided that the third party is able to demonstrate to the School that they have the appropriate consent to do so.

Concerns should initially be raised with the Class Lead. If the issue remains unresolved a further member of staff may be required to be involved. Beyond this, the next step is to make a formal complaint. However, if the issue does not meet the threshold of a complaint, they will not be managed as a complaint and will be managed as a concern.

Complainants should not approach individual Governors to raise concerns or complaints. They have no power to act on an individual basis and it may also prevent them from considering complaints at Stage 2 of the formal complaints process. In the event that a Governor is approached by a complainant, they should signpost the complainant back to the most appropriate person. This could be the Class Lead, Area Lead, member of SLT, Headteacher or Chair of Governors, depending on which stage the complaint has reached.

Complaints against School staff (except the Headteacher) should be made in the first instance, to the Headteacher via the School Office. They should be marked Private and Confidential.

Complaints regarding the Headteacher should be addressed to the Chair of Governors and submitted via the School Office. They should be marked as Private and Confidential. The School Office will ensure that the Chair of Governors receives this promptly.

Complaints about the Chair of Governors, any individual Governor or the whole Governing Body should be addressed to the Clerk to the Governing Body and submitted to the School Office. They should be marked Private and Confidential. The School Office will ensure that the Clerk receives this promptly.

For ease of use, a template complaint form has been included within this complaints policy and procedure (Appendix 2). If you require help to complete the form, you should contact the School Office. You can also ask third party organisations like the Citizens Advice Bureau or an Independent Advocate to help you. Greenside School will ensure that all formal complaints are documented in writing to ensure that the issues being complained about and the complainant's desired outcomes are clear. Complainants will be asked to submit their complaint in writing, either by sending an email or a letter via the School Office or by completing the School's formal complaint form.

In accordance with equality law, as outlined above, the School will consider making reasonable adjustments if required, to enable complainants to access and complete this complaints process. This includes providing information in alternative formats, assisting complainants in raising a formal complaint or holding meetings in accessible locations.

If a complainant is unable to submit their complaint in writing, the School will ensure that the issues being complained about and the outcomes being requested are documented in writing. The School may do this in either of the following ways:

- Invite the complainant to a meeting with the Headteacher/SLT member or Chair of Governors (depending on what stage the complaint has reached) and a Notetaker. The Notetaker will document the issues being complained about and the complainant's desired outcomes, as discussed and agreed during the course of the meeting. At the end of the meeting, the complainant will be given a copy of the notes of the meeting containing this information and the School will retain the original copy for the purpose of investigating the complaint(s).

- Signpost the complainant to independent support, including Advocacy. Advocates provide qualified, independent support for people that have difficulty understanding information and advice or who would like support in communicating their views. Advocates can help complainants to formulate their complaint and then submit it on their behalf and support them through the complaints process. POhWER was founded in Hertfordshire in 1996. They deliver services in Hertfordshire as part of the HertsHelp service, in partnership with a wide range of voluntary sector organisations, including Advocacy. It is a free and impartial service. Their contact details are as follows:

POhWER

Telephone: 0300 456 2370

Text: send the word 'pohwer' with your name and number to 81025

Email: pohwer@pohwer.net

Skype: pohwer.advocacy

Post: PO Box 14043, Birmingham, B6 9BL

Anonymous complaints

Greenside School will not normally investigate anonymous complaints. In such instances, the Headteacher and/or the Chair of Governors will determine whether the complaint warrants an investigation and will ensure that this is completed, if so. The outcome of the investigation cannot be shared with the complainant, as the School will not know who they are and therefore, the School cannot ascertain whether or not the person is entitled to have confidential information regarding the complaint investigation shared with them.

Timescales

All complaints must be raised within three months of an incident or event. Where a series of associated incidents have occurred, the complaint must be raised within three months of the last of these incidents. Greenside School will consider exercising the discretion to consider matters raised outside of this timeframe, only if the School deems that exceptional circumstances apply. To enable the School to make this decision, the complainant will be asked to explain their reasons as to why they have taken longer than three months to raise their complaint. If the complainant does not provide any explanation or the School deems that the explanation given is not compelling or exceptional enough to warrant the issue(s) being investigated as a late complaint, the School will confirm this in writing and take no further action.

Complaints received outside of term time

Greenside School will consider any complaints made outside of term time to have been received on the first School day after the holiday period. The School will send the complainant an acknowledgement of their complaint, confirming the date of receipt, what will happen next and the timescale that applies. This will differ depending on what stage of the complaints process has been reached.

Scope of this Complaints Policy and Procedure

This policy and procedure only applies to complaints about the provision of facilities or services by Greenside School.

Some examples of issues that may be complained about are as follows:

- Complaints from individuals, including members of the public, about the provision of facilities or services by the School.
- Issues from parents or carers of children who attend the School.
- Complaints regarding pupil welfare and wellbeing.
- Complaints regarding bullying.
- Complaints regarding staff behaviour.
- A Governor complaining about a member of Staff.
- A member of Staff complaining about a Governor.
- A Governor complaining about another Governor.
- Complaints about the School's handling of a Subject Access Request (SAR) or a Freedom of Information (FOI) Request.

The following matters cannot be dealt with as a formal complaint:

- Complaints about pupil behaviour outside of School hours, e.g. weekends and holiday periods – such issues are not the School's responsibility.
- Complaints regarding third parties using or hiring School premises – third party providers should have their own complaints process and you should contact them directly.
- Complaints about the School carrying out a statutory duty, e.g. making a Child Protection referral – the School's complaints process cannot be invoked to stop it from doing something it has a duty to do.
- Matters likely to require a Child Protection Investigation – Complaints about Child Protection matters are handled under the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and in accordance with relevant statutory guidance.
- A member of staff complaining about another member of staff – refer to the School's Internal Grievance Procedures.
- A member of staff complaining about an action or a decision of the School's Full Governing Body - the Governing Body will have already given the matter full consideration.
- Whistleblowing – refer to the School's Internal Whistleblowing Procedure for all employees, including temporary staff and contractors. The Secretary of State for Education is the prescribed person for matters relating to education for Whistleblowing in education who do not wish to raise matters directly with their employer. Referrals can be made at www.education.gov.uk/contactus
- National Curriculum content – contact the Department for Education at www.education.gov.uk/contactus
- Complaints about a decision or process that has been subject to a full consultation and subsequently approved by the Full Governing Body – the Governing Body has already given the matter full consideration and respondents have had the opportunity through the consultation process to put forward their views.
- Unsuccessful School admission applications – this is managed by the LA.
- Complaints about Fixed-Term or Permanent Exclusions – Permanent Exclusions may ultimately be appealed to an Independent Review Panel (IRP). For Fixed Term Exclusions, representations can be made to the Chair of Governors outside the provisions of the complaints process.

If other bodies are looking into aspects of a complaint, for example the Police, the Local Authority (LA) Safeguarding Teams or a Tribunal, this may impact on the School's ability to adhere to the timescales set out within this policy and procedure or may result in the process being suspended until the other relevant body has concluded its enquiries.

If a complainant commences legal action against Greenside School in relation to their complaint, we will consider whether to suspend the complaints process until the legal proceedings have concluded. The School will only consider investigating the complaint after the conclusion of legal proceedings if those proceedings did not address the issues at the heart of the complaint.

Resolving complaints

At each stage of this process, Greenside School will aim to resolve the complaint. If appropriate, we will acknowledge that the complaint is upheld, in whole or in part. In addition, we may offer one or more of the following if it is deemed appropriate and necessary:

- An explanation.
- An admission that the situation could have been handled differently or better.
- An assurance that we will try to ensure the event(s) complained of will not recur.
- An explanation of the steps that have been or will be taken to help ensure that it will not happen again and an indication of the timescales within which any changes will be made.
- An undertaking to review relevant School policies in light of the complaint.
- An apology.

Withdrawal of a Complaint

If a complainant wishes to withdraw their complaint, they must inform the School. Greenside School will ask them to confirm this in writing. If they are unable to do this however, the School will write to them to confirm that their complaint has been withdrawn, in accordance with their wishes.

Stage 1

Formal complaints must be made to the Headteacher in the first instance (unless the complaint is about the Headteacher) via the School office. If you are unable to submit your complaint in writing by email or letter or by using the formal complaint form, the School will follow the steps set out on pages 2 and 3 of this policy and procedure, by offering to meet you and/or signposting you to a free and impartial Advocacy and Support Service.

The Headteacher will record the date the complaint was received and will acknowledge receipt of the complaint in writing (either by letter or email) within 5 School days.

Within this response, the Headteacher will seek to clarify the nature of the complaint, ask what remains unresolved and what outcome(s) the complainant would like to see. The Headteacher will consider whether a face to face meeting is the most appropriate way of doing this. The Headteacher can delegate the investigation of the complaint to another member of the School's Senior Leadership Team, but not the decision(s) to be taken.

During the investigation, the Headteacher (or Investigator) will:

- Interview those involved in the matter and/or those complained of, allowing them to be accompanied if they wish. The decision in terms of who should be interviewed and how is up to the Headteacher (or Investigator).
- Keep a written record of any meetings or interviews in relation to their investigation.

Once the investigation has been concluded, the Headteacher will provide a formal written response within 10 School days from the date of receipt of the complaint.

If the Headteacher is unable to meet this deadline for whatever reason, they will provide the complainant with an update and a revised response date.

The response will detail the actions taken to investigate the complaint and will provide a full explanation of the decision(s) made and the reasoning behind them.

Where appropriate and possible, the response will include details of actions Greenside School will take to hopefully resolve the complaint.

The Headteacher will advise the complainant how they may escalate their complaint should they remain dissatisfied with the outcome of Stage 1.

If the complaint is about the Headteacher, or a member of the Governing Body (including the Chair or Vice-Chair of Governors), a suitably skilled Governor will be appointed to complete all of the required actions at Stage 1 as set out above.

Complaints about the Headteacher or a member of the Governing Body must be made to the Clerk, via the School Office.

If the complaint is:

- jointly about the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors,
- the majority of the Governing Body or
- the entire Governing Body,

Stage 1 will be considered by an Independent Investigator appointed by the Clerk to the Governing Body. This person could be a Governor from another School. At the conclusion of their investigation, the Independent Investigator will provide a formal written response to the complainant.

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the Stage 1 response to their complaint, they have 10 School days in which to request escalation to Stage 2 of the complaints process.

Escalation requests made outside of this timeframe do not have to be accepted.

If the request is late, the complainant will be asked to explain why they have taken longer than 10 School days to request escalation of their complaint to the next stage. If the complainant does not provide any explanation or the School deems that the explanation given is not compelling or exceptional enough to warrant accepting the escalation request out of timescale, the School will confirm this in writing and take no further action.

Stage 2- Governors Complaint Panel Hearing

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the outcome at Stage 1 and wishes to take the matter further, they can escalate the complaint to Stage 2 – where the complaint is heard by a Panel of Governors. The Panel is comprised of 3 impartial Governors, usually from the School's Governing Body. In exceptional circumstances however, a decision may be taken to use Governors from other Schools to make up the Panel. Stage 2 is the final stage of the School's complaints process.

A request to escalate to Stage 2 must be made by the complainant to the Chair of the Governing Body (or the Clerk to the Governing Body if the complaint is about the Chair) via the School office, within 10 School days of the Stage 1 response being issued.

The Chair of Governors (or the Clerk) will record the date the Stage 2 escalation request is received and acknowledge receipt of the request in writing (either by letter or email) within 3 School days.

Requests received outside of this timeframe will only be considered if the School deems that exceptional circumstances apply. Stage 2 will only consider complaints that have already been lodged and investigated at Stage 1. It is not an opportunity to raise new complaints. Any complainant wishing to do so must first complete Stage 1 of the School's complaints process.

The Chair of Governors (or the Clerk) will write to the complainant to inform them of the date of the Stage 2 Complaints Panel Hearing. They will aim to convene a Panel within 28 School days of receipt of the Stage 2 request. If this is not possible, they will provide an anticipated date and keep the complainant informed.

If the complainant rejects the offer of three proposed dates and without good reason, the Chair of Governors (or the Clerk) will decide when the Panel Hearing will be. It is permitted to proceed in the complainant's absence on the basis that the Panel will consider all written submissions from both parties.

The Stage 2 Complaints Panel Hearing will consist of at least three Governors with no prior involvement or knowledge of the complaint. Prior to the meeting, they will decide amongst themselves who will serve as the Chair of the Panel. If there are fewer than three Governors from Greenside School are available (for example due to sickness or other prior commitments), the Chair of Governors (or the Clerk) will source any additional, impartial Governors through another local School or through the Local Authority's Governor Services Unit, in order to make up the committee. On some occasions, a Panel comprised entirely of external Governors may be convened to hear the complaint at Stage 2. This will depend on the circumstances of the complaint and the decision will be made by the Chair of Governors (or the Clerk).

The Complaints Panel will decide whether to deal with the complaint by inviting parties to a Hearing or by way of written representations, but in making their decision they will be sensitive to the complainant's needs. The Hearing may take place with both parties present or attending separately at different times. Once again, this will depend on the circumstances of the complaint.

Both parties (i.e. the complainant and the respondent on behalf of the School) may bring someone along with them to provide support. This could be a friend, relative or independent supporter. Generally, whilst not prohibited, we do not encourage either party to bring Legal Representatives to the Panel Hearing as it is not a Court of Law and cross questioning is not permitted. All

questioning throughout the Hearing is conducted by the Panel. Witnesses, including members of staff, may be invited to give evidence during the course of the Panel Hearing. They may also bring someone along with them to provide support, such as a friend, relative or independent supporter.

If a complaint is made regarding the behaviour or conduct of a member of staff and it is upheld in full or in part, this may result in some form of disciplinary action taking place. Where this is the case, complainants will be informed that the matter will be progressed through Staff Disciplinary Procedures, if appropriate, but the outcome(s) cannot be shared with them as this information is confidential between the employer and employee.

Representatives from the media are not permitted to attend a Stage 2 Complaints Panel Hearing.

At least 14 School days before the meeting, the Chair of Governors (or the Clerk) will:

- Confirm and notify the complainant (and the respondent on behalf of the School) of the date, time and venue of the Panel Hearing. Every effort should be made to try and ensure that that Hearing date and time is convenient for both parties and that the venue and proceedings are accessible. Please note however, that if the complainant rejects the offer of three proposed dates and without good reason, the Chair of Governors (or the Clerk) will decide when the Panel Hearing will be and it is permitted to proceed in the complainant's absence on the basis that the Panel will consider all written submissions from both parties. Similarly, if either party elects to leave the Hearing before it has finished, it is permitted to continue in their absence.
- Request copies of any further written material to be submitted to the Panel at least 7 School days before the meeting. Late evidence will not be accepted.

Any written material submitted will be circulated to all parties at least 5 School days before the date of the Hearing. The Complaints Panel will not normally accept as evidence audio or video recordings of conversations that were obtained covertly and/or without the informed consent of all parties being recorded.

The Complaints Panel will not review any new complaints at this stage or consider evidence unrelated to the initial complaint that may have been included. Any new complaints must be dealt with at Stage 1 of the complaints process first.

The Stage 2 Complaints Panel Hearing will be held in private. Electronic recording of the Hearing is not normally permitted unless a complainant's own disability or special needs require a reasonable adjustment to be made. Complainants cannot insist on a Hearing being recorded without good reason. Prior knowledge and consent of all parties attending must be sought and obtained before recording of the Hearing can take place. Any request to audio or video record the meeting and whether this was consented to or not by all parties present should be documented in the Clerk's detailed notes of the Hearing. The final decision as to what reasonable adjustments will be made, if any, rests with the school.

The Stage 2 Complaints Panel will consider the complaint and all of the evidence presented by both parties. The Panel can:

- Uphold the complaint in full or in part.
- Reject the complaint in full or in part.

- Make a finding of No Judgement if there is insufficient evidence to reach a definitive conclusion.

If the complaint is upheld in full or in part, the Stage 2 Complaints Panel will:

- Decide on the appropriate action to be taken to try and resolve the complaint.
- Where appropriate, recommend changes to the School's systems or procedures to prevent the same or similar issues happening in the future.

The Chair of the Panel will provide the complainant and the respondent on behalf of the School with a full explanation of their decision and the reason(s) for it, in writing, within 5 School days of the Hearing.

The outcome letter to the complainant (and copied to the respondent on behalf of the School) will include details of how to contact the Department for Education if they are dissatisfied with the way their complaint has been handled by Millfield First & Nursery School.

If the complaint is:

- jointly about the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Governing Body or
- the majority of the Governing Body or
- the entire Governing Body,

Stage 2 will be heard by a Panel of Independent Governors.

The response will detail any actions taken to investigate the complaint and provide a full explanation of the decision(s) made and the reason(s) for them. Where appropriate, it will include details of actions Millfield First & Nursery School will take to try and resolve the complaint and to prevent the same issues from recurring.

The response will also advise the complainant how to escalate their complaint should they remain dissatisfied.

Stage 2 - Governor Review - Complaints where a child no longer attends the School and is no longer on roll

The purpose of this complaints process is to ensure that if an error has been made, or an injustice has occurred, action can be taken to try and provide a remedy. Where the complainant has removed their child from the School, it is impossible for the School to provide a remedy that will directly benefit them or their child.

However, as the Governing Body has a duty of care to pupils who remain on roll, where a child has left the School, it will ensure that the circumstances of any complaint made are reviewed so that the Governing Body is satisfied that the School had acted appropriately and that the relevant policies and procedures had been followed correctly.

Under this policy and procedure, where a child no longer attends the School and their name has been removed from the School roll, the Chair of Governors has the discretion to commission a Stage 2 Governor Review instead of a Stage 2 Complaints Panel. The Chair of Governors will choose one of the two options, to ensure that the complaint is investigated appropriately and that the complaints process can be concluded, however, the final decision as to which option they choose is entirely at their discretion.

If a decision is taken to commission a Stage 2 Governor Review instead of a Stage 2 Complaints Panel Hearing, the Chair of Governors will appoint a Governor who has had no prior involvement in the complaint to undertake this. If a Governor cannot be appointed from the School's own Governing Body (for example due to sickness or other prior commitments), the Chair of Governors will appoint an independent Governor from another local School or through the Local Authority's Governor Services Unit.

Once a Governor has been appointed, they will review the original complaint, the Stage 1 Investigation and response, the complainant's reply to the Stage 1 response (including their escalation request) and any further evidence the complainant has submitted (this must relate to the complaint and cannot be in relation to new matters).

When the review is complete, either the Chair of Governors or the Governor who conducted the review will write to the complainant to inform them whether the complaint has been upheld or rejected, in full or in part, and of any changes to practice and procedures which have been agreed by the Governing Body.

Complaints of any other nature

If the complainant believes that the School did not handle their complaint correctly in accordance with this complaints policy and procedure or that it acted unlawfully or unreasonably in exercising its duties under education law, they can approach the Department for Education (DFE) after they have exhausted the School's complaints process at Stage 2.

The DFE will not normally re-investigate the substance of a complaint or overturn any decisions made by Millfield First & Nursery School. They will consider whether the School has adhered to education legislation and any statutory policies relevant to the complaint. The DFE will not substitute its decision for that of the Stage 2 Complaints Panel simply because the complainant disagrees with it.

The complainant can refer their complaint to the Secretary of State at the Department for Education online at www.education.gov.uk/contactus, by telephone on 0370 000 2288 or by writing to:

Department for Education
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Complaints - Guidance for parents and carers

Introduction

At Greenside School we value working in partnership with parents and carers. We recognise the importance of good relationships in enabling our children to enjoy school, learn, achieve and progress.

Our Vision is: To deliver a creative, relevant and highly personalised curriculum that empowers each learner to achieve a fulfilled future.

Our Values are: Respect Creativity Collaboration

We believe in: Learning Achieving Together.

Resolving difficulties

We are committed to resolving difficulties in an open a constructive manner, through an open and positive dialogue.

We understand that everyday misunderstandings can cause frustrations and have a negative impact on our relationships. Where issues arise or misconceptions take place, please contact your child's teacher, Area Lead or a senior member of staff, who will to meet with you and go through the issue and hopefully resolve it.

Our commitment

- Complaints will be dealt with honestly, politely and in confidence.
- Complaints will be looked into thoroughly and fairly.
- You will get an apology if we have made a mistake.
- You will be told what we are going to do to put things right.

We care about what you think

If you have a concern about anything we do, or if you wish to make a complaint, you can do this by telephone, in person or in writing (by letter or email). We hope that most complaints can be settled quickly and informally, either by putting matters right or by giving you an explanation.

Each day this school makes many decisions and tries hard to do the best for all the children. Your comments - either positive or negative - are helpful for future planning. You may want to talk to us about a particular aspect of this school, you just want to get something 'off your chest'. Teachers, area and senior leads at Greenside will seek to sort out your worries. However, if this is not possible there is a next step: - the formal stage.

How to make a complaint

Informal stage

If you have a concern about anything we do, or if you wish to make a complaint, you can do this by telephone, in person or in writing (by letter or email).

We hope that most complaints can be settled quickly and informally, either by putting matters right or by giving you an explanation.

If there is something you are not happy about, or you don't understand why we are doing something in a particular way, please come in and discuss it with the class teacher or another appropriate member of staff, such as the Area Lead.

We know that it can feel uncomfortable to question or challenge something, but if you don't tell us what is worrying you we cannot explain what we are doing or try to put it right. If the member of staff you speak to in the first instance is unable to attempt to resolve the matter, you should make an appointment with the Headteacher. You should be able to sort out your worries but sometimes this is not possible. In this case there is a next step.

Formal - stage 1

Request a meeting with the Headteacher who will arrange for an investigation into your complaint and aim to inform you of the outcome within 10 school days

If your complaint is about the Headteacher, you should write to the Chair of Governors.

Formal – stage 2

If you remain dissatisfied following Stage 1 and wish to take your complaint further, you will be asked to write a letter addressed to the Chair of Governors. In the letter you should:

- Make it clear why you are complaining.
- Say who you have spoken to already.
- Explain what you want to happen as a result of your complaint.

The SEND Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS – formerly Parent Partnership) may be able to help you.

The Chair of Governors will arrange for your complaint to be considered and investigated under the arrangements approved by the Governing Body. This is likely to involve a Panel of Governors.

If the Chair of Governors or another Governor has been involved in discussions to help settle the disagreement at Stage 1, s/he should arrange for another Governor to take charge of the investigation. The Governor in charge of investigating the complaint may ask to meet you to discuss your concerns.

You should make sure that the Governors' Complaint Panel is provided with any written information or evidence you intend to use in a formal hearing. You may bring a friend, representative or interpreter to any meeting if you wish. The Chair of the Panel may invite any person who may help establish the facts of the complaint. The Chair should tell you who this person is before the meeting. If any member of staff is required by the Governing Body to attend a meeting they will have the opportunity to be accompanied or represented as they wish. A member of staff named in a complaint may also choose to attend a meeting, even if not required to do so by the Governors. They may be represented. If this happens, we will inform you in advance.

When the Panel has fully investigated your complaint, the Chair of the Panel or the Governor in charge of the investigation will write to you to tell you the findings. These findings will be reported to the Governing Body. The Chair of Governors will then write to you confirming the outcome of your complaint and any agreed actions to be taken. Our Governing Body will aim to deal with your complaint within 28 school days (5½ weeks).

Further recourse

Most complaints are resolved by this process. You can complain to the Secretary of State at the Department for Education: The Secretary of State, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT Website:

www.education.gov.uk Telephone: 0370 000 2288

Appendix 2

Formal Complaint Form

Name:		
Address:		
Postcode:		
Email address:		
Telephone No:	Day:	
	Evening:	
	Mobile:	
What is the nature of your complaint? (Please use additional sheets if needed)		

<p>Have you raised your issue(s) with your child's Class Lead at the informal stage? If so, when did you do this?</p>	<p>Yes (inc. date)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Have you complained to the Headteacher at Stage 1?</p>	<p>Yes (inc. date)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>What happened when you complained to the Headteacher?</p>		
<p></p>		
<p>What are your desired outcomes?</p>		
<p></p>		
<p>Signed</p>	<p></p>	
<p>Date:</p>	<p></p>	

Please return your completed complaint form to the School Office either by email at admin@greenside.herts.sch.uk or in hard copy format and it will be passed to the Headteacher or Chair of Governors, depending on what stage the complaint is at and what it is regarding.

Appendix 3

Flowchart - Summary of Dealing with Complaints

