



Calrossy Anglican School

Complaints Handling Policy and Procedures

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and scope

This policy applies to Calrossy Anglican School ("School") in handling complaints made in respect of services provided by the School or against staff members, which includes employees, contractors and volunteers.

This policy does not extend to personal grievances between parents, guardians or other members of the school community.

1.2 Whistleblowing complaints

This policy does not extend to complaints which are whistleblowing disclosures. The procedure for processing whistleblowing complaints are dealt with in the School's Whistleblowing Policy.

In summary a whistleblowing disclosure is a disclosure which:

- is made by a board member, staff member, a person who supplies goods or services to the School, including a volunteer, an employer of a supplier or a relative of any of these people,
- involves alleged misconduct, an improper state of affairs or circumstances, or illegal activity, and
- is made to a senior staff member, or officer of the school, the school's auditor or a person who the school has authorised to collect such disclosures.

1.3 Related policies

Complaints about reportable conduct will be addressed in accordance with the school's Child Protection Policy.

Complaints regarding a grievance between students will be addressed in accordance with the school's Student Code of Conduct and/or Behaviour Management Policy and/or Anti-bullying Policy and/or Student Wellbeing Procedures.

Complaints from Parents/Students will be addressed in accordance with the Student and Parent/Guardian Grievance Policy and Procedures.

Complaints regarding a grievance between staff members about work matters, including work relationships and decision made by other staff members which impact on their work, will be addressed in accordance with the school's Workplace Grievance Policy.

Complaints regarding unlawful discrimination, harassment or bullying between staff are generally addressed in accordance with the school's Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Statement.

Complaints regarding teacher accreditation processes will be addressed in accordance with the school's Teacher Accreditation Procedures.

Complaints regarding boarding will be addressed in accordance with the school's boarding complaints documentation.

Overseas students enrolled at the school on a study visa should also refer to the Overseas Student Complaints & Appeals documentation.

1.4 Confidentiality

All parties involved in complaints handling are required to maintain appropriate confidentiality, including in relation to handling and storing of records.

2. Complaints

A complaint or grievance is an expression of dissatisfaction made to the school about an educational and/or operational matter relating to services provided by the school or the behaviour or decisions of a staff member, contractor or volunteer, including misconduct.

If a parent/carer or student has a concern about the conduct of a staff member, they should raise their concern with the school in accordance with section 3.

If a complaint that concerns the behaviour of a staff member might constitute reportable conduct, the matter will be addressed by the school's Child Protection Policy in accordance with section 1.3. A complaint about a reportable conduct matter may be current or historical. Timeframes for investigation of complaints relating to reportable conduct are dependent on the individual matter and may be over an extended period of time, particularly in the case of a historical allegation. The school is bound by privacy or other confidentiality requirements when conducting investigations of reportable conduct allegations, which may limit the information that can be shared with the complainant regarding the outcome of an investigation. Please refer to the school's Child Protection Policy for information about reportable conduct.

Complainants are not required to assess whether their concern meets the threshold of reportable conduct before making a complaint. Any concern about a child's wellbeing or the conduct of an employee, volunteer, contractor or member of the school community may be reported under this policy.

Complaints may be made by a student or parent/carer or any member of the school community.

The school will seek to resolve complaints informally where possible but acknowledges that in some cases a person may wish to make a formal complaint.

3. Raising a complaint

3.1 The complainant

Complaints may be raised by a complainant directly with the person involved. However, if the complainant does not feel comfortable doing so or the matter is one where it may not be appropriate to do so a complaint can be made to the Deputy Principal or Principal. Any complaint about the conduct of a staff member should be raised directly with the Principal in the first instance.

Should the matter not be resolved between the parties in the first instance, the complainant may raise the matter with the School. A complaint can be made in writing to the Principal via email: principal@calrossy.nsw.edu.au, letter, by appointment with the Principal (or delegate). There is a feedback mechanism on the School's website and/or the School HUB, which is directed to admin@calrossy.nsw.edu.au (monitored by the Principal's EA) and is acknowledged, assessed and forwarded to the most appropriate person for follow up.

Where a person wishes to make a complaint concerning the Principal, the complaint should be made in writing to the Chair of the Board via email; boardchair@calrossy.nsw.edu.au or via PO Box 1245, Tamworth NSW 2340. In this situation, the references in this policy relating to the role of the Principal should be read as references to the Chair of Board.

3.2 The School

The Principal will generally acknowledge receipt of a formal complaint in writing as soon as practicable.

4. Handling complaints

4.1 Assessing a Complaint

The Principal/delegate generally will assess the complaint and determine:

- whether the complaint is one to be addressed under this policy or is a staff grievance or reportable conduct matter, or another matter identified in section 1.3 which are dealt with by the relevant policies, see section 1.3; and
- the priority of the complaint in accordance with the urgency and/or seriousness of the matter raised; and
- whether the school may be required to report the matter to the Office of the Children’s Guardian, Police, Department of Communities and Justice or other relevant authorities should the complaint relate to possible unlawful conduct or other reportable matters, and an external investigation may ensue.

4.2 Managing a complaint

The Principal/delegate generally will manage a complaint by:

- a) advising the complainant of the likely steps that will be undertaken by the School in relation to the complaint;
- b) if appropriate, advising the relevant parties of the complaint at the relevant time and providing them with an opportunity to respond;
- c) collecting any additional information the School considers necessary to assess the complaint;
- d) making a decision about how the complaint will be resolved (“resolution decision”); and
- e) if appropriate, advising the complainant in writing, and any other relevant parties as appropriate, of the resolution decision of the Principal/delegate and if appropriate, any proposed action to be taken.

There may be circumstances where some of the steps outlined above are not appropriate and the school will determine, on a case by case basis the most appropriate method of handling the complaint.

A complainant and the relevant parties that the complaint is about may choose to have an appropriate support person present at any meeting with representatives of the School about the complaint. However, the Principal maintains the right to determine whether the person’s preferred support person is appropriate and may not approve the attendance of a support person where they are determined by the School to be inappropriate.

(A support person provides emotional and moral support to an employee who is attending a difficult meeting or interview in relation to their employment. The support person must not provide the employee with advice, attempt to answer questions on the employee’s behalf or otherwise interrupt the meeting or interview. The support person is not an advocate.)

5. Contact

If you have any queries about this procedure, you should contact the Human Resources Officer for advice via hr@calrossy.nsw.edu.au on 02 5776 5123.

6. Document Publication

This document is to be made available on:

- The HUB – for staff, parents and students
- The official School website: www.calrossy.nsw.edu.au