



Beech Green Primary School

Respect Achieve Belong

Grievance Policy

Contents:

- 1.0 [Introduction](#)
- 2.0 [The grievance procedure and other procedures](#)
- 3.0 [Raising a grievance informally](#)
- 4.0 [Raising a grievance formally](#)
- 5.0 [Grievance resolution meeting panel and right of representation](#)
- 6.0 [Mediation](#)
- 7.0 [Appealing the outcome of a formal grievance resolution meeting](#)
- 8.0 [Collective grievance](#)
- 9.0 [Situations excluded from the grievance policy](#)
- 10.0 [Grievance resolution meeting – sample format for the meeting](#)
- 11.0 [Appeal meeting – sample format for the meeting](#)

Publication date: January 2025
Review date: January 2026

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The school recognises the importance of good working relationships with its employees and seeks to ensure that grievances are resolved as quickly as possible.
- 1.2 A grievance is a concern, a problem or a complaint that an employee can raise with the school relating to their employment. This procedure is to ensure that employees are treated fairly when raising a grievance.
- 1.3 This policy reflects the principles of the ACAS Code of Practice on Discipline and Grievance.
- 1.4 The policy applies to the following employees:
 - 1.4.1 support staff (Green Book)
 - 1.4.2 teachers (Burgundy Book)
 - 1.4.3 teachers in residential schools/establishments (Orange Book)
- 1.5 Issues not covered under the grievance policy are set out in the exclusion list at section 9.0 below.
- 1.6 This procedure does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and is entirely non-contractual. It may be amended, withdrawn, suspended or departed from at the discretion of the school at any time.

2.0 The grievance procedure and other procedures

- 2.1 The school has other procedures for dealing with various issues that might be raised as a complaint, concern or problem. These procedures include: whistle-blowing, complaints, conduct and capability and various appeals processes.
- 2.2 The headteacher (or the Chair of Governors if applicable) will advise which procedure is the most appropriate depending on the particular circumstances. If this is the case the headteacher/Chair of Governors will explain which procedure will be used and what that process entails.
- 2.3 Unless the headteacher/Chair of Governors confirms there is a more appropriate procedure to use then this procedure will apply.

3.0 Raising a grievance informally

- 3.1 Before any formal process starts, it is important to try to resolve the grievance informally. In the first instance employees should raise the issue with the staff governor or a member of SLT. Where a grievance is raised against the headteacher, employees can speak to the Chair of Governors. Where a grievance is raised against the Chair of Governors, employees can speak to the Vice Chair of Governors.
- 3.2 It is important to raise the issue as soon as possible and state what action would satisfy the grievance.
- 3.3 All parties should approach a grievance with a view to problem-solving, rather than negatively or defensively which sometimes can be a natural first reaction. Demonstrating an

open and positive approach provides the best chance of resolving a grievance informally and at an early stage.

- 3.4 All options to resolve the issue should be explored at the informal stage before considering a formal approach.
- 3.5. Before a resolution can be made informally, or, before proceeding raising a grievance formally, it may be necessary to carry out investigations of any allegations made. The confidentiality of the resolution process will be respected, wherever possible.
- 3.6 If an employee leaves the school, where possible the procedure should continue (or a modified form of the procedure if appropriate).
- 3.7 There is no right to raise a grievance under this policy after an employee has left the school's employment.
- 387 If an employee has a concern they wish to bring to the school's attention after they have left the school's employment, they can put this in writing to the headteacher/Chair of Governors within one month of the leaving date. The school may consider the matter further at its discretion.

4.0 Raising a grievance formally

- 4.1 If the issue cannot be resolved informally, there are two formal stages; a grievance resolution meeting and an appeal.
- 4.2 A formal grievance should be submitted in writing to headteacher with a copy to the Chair of Governors. Where the grievance concerns the headteacher, the formal grievance should be submitted to the Chair of Governors.
- 4.3 The grievance letter should explain the problem, state the action that has been taken to try to resolve the matter informally, and set out the desired outcome, any further action the individual believes will help to resolve the issue.
- 4.3 Where the grievance is against the Chair of Governors, the formal grievance should be submitted to Vice Chair of Governors.
- 4.4 The manager should then write to the complainant within 5 working days detailing the arrangements made for the grievance resolution meeting, and details of any fact finding that has taken place. The hearing may be delayed if further fact finding is required, though any delay should be kept to a reasonable minimum. The employee should be notified of receipt of the grievance and be given a timeline for information regarding the arrangements of the grievance resolution meeting.

5.0 Grievance resolution meeting panel and right of representation

- 5.1 Where possible, a panel of three governors not previously involved in the grievance will hear it.
- 5.2 Employees are entitled to be represented by a trade union representative or a workplace colleague at formal meetings throughout the formal procedure.
- 5.3 Employees will receive notification at least 10 working days before the meeting is to take place and must make every effort to attend. In exceptional circumstances where the

complainant is unavailable, an alternative date will be set which is normally within 5 working days from the original date.

- 5.4. Where the chosen companion (workplace colleague or trade union representative) is unavailable on the day scheduled for the meeting or appeal, the meeting can be rescheduled, provided that an alternative time within five working days of the scheduled date is available.
- 5.5 Where possible a letter confirming the outcome should be sent to the complainant within 5 working days, summarising the key points of the meeting along with the notes from the meeting. If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the grievance resolution meeting, there is a right of appeal.
- 5.5 If necessary, the chair of the panel may adjourn the meeting to enable further information to be obtained in order to make a fully informed decision on the outcome.

6.0 Mediation

- 6.1 Mediation helps people who are having relationship difficulties at work to sort out their differences as soon as possible. It is a voluntary process and enables parties to work through their issues and find a solution. Mediation can be initiated at any point in the informal/formal process.
- 6.2 It is at the discretion of the school as to whether or not it offers this option and whether or not mediation is used will depend on a number of factors.

7.0 Appealing the outcome of a formal grievance resolution meeting

- 7.1 Any appeal must be sent in writing to the Chair of Governors, or appropriate nominated governor, within 10 working days of the date of the letter confirming the grievance resolution meeting decision.
- 7.2 The letter should set out the reason for the appeal and why the employee feels the outcome of the grievance resolution meeting was unreasonable. The employee should also state the actions they are seeking for the matter to be resolved.
- 7.3 The appeal is conducted as a review of the reasonableness of the decision following the grievance resolution meeting. It is an independent review of the reasonableness of the previous decision, based on the information that was presented at the grievance resolution meeting. It is not a rehearing of the case.
- 7.3 If the appeal panel considers the decision made at the grievance resolution meeting unreasonable in the circumstances, it can change the decision.
- 7.4 If necessary, the chair of the panel may adjourn the meeting to enable further information to be obtained to reach a fully informed decision.
- 7.5 The panel's decision at appeal will be final and there is no further right of appeal.
- 7.6 This procedure is to ensure there is a fair and impartial process for a panel to review the reasonableness of the decision made at the grievance resolution meeting.

- 7.7 Where possible the panel comprises of three members of the governing board not previously involved in the case.
- 7.8 Where the chosen companion (workplace colleague or trade union representative) is unavailable on the day scheduled for the appeal, the meeting can be rescheduled, provided that an alternative time within five working days of the scheduled date is available.
- 7.9 If the employee is unable to attend any of the meetings because of circumstances beyond their control, the line manager should be informed as soon as possible. Failure to attend without explanation may mean the hearing takes place in the employee's absence.

8.0 Collective grievance

- 8.1 If two or more colleagues share the same grievance this can be dealt with together rather than separately and if it is dealt with together it is known as a 'collective grievance'.
- 8.2 As with individual grievances, the complainants should firstly try to resolve the matter informally. This will usually involve discussing it with the staff governor / headteacher / chair of governors and possibly a mediator.
- 8.3 If it is not possible to resolve the matter informally, the same process applies as for an individual grievance. This means there will be a grievance resolution meeting and (if necessary) an appeal.
- 8.4 The complainants should nominate one individual to act on behalf of the group. The same right to representation applies as would be the case if it was an individual formal grievance.
- 8.5 If the group prefer, they may request their trade union representative take up the matter with the school on their behalf, rather than using the grievance procedure. This would require the agreement of the trade union, who will discuss the matter with the headteacher and/or Chair of Governors in the first instance.
- 8.6 The grievance procedure would cease to apply if the school agrees to deal with the matter directly with the trade union.

9.0 Situations excluded from the grievance policy

- 9.1 A grievance will be excluded from this procedure if the school considers the matter is already being, or will be, dealt with more appropriately through other school procedures, and also in the following specific circumstances:
- 9.1.1 The grievance concerns grade, pay, tax, National Insurance or pension.
- 9.1.2 It concerns the content (rather than application) of national or local conditions of service or a written term of the contract of employment.
- 9.1.3 It is the same, or broadly similar, to a grievance that has already been heard under this procedure.
- 9.1.4 The employee does not comply with time scales specified in the process to resolve their formal grievance, unless the headteacher / chair of governors has agreed to extend the time limits.
- 9.1.5 It concerns a matter that is subject to action or investigation under the school's conduct, capability or induction/probationary procedures.
- 9.1.6 It is already the subject of a dispute between the school and the trade union(s).

9.1.7 The subject of the grievance, or the outcome the employee is seeking, is outside the control of the school.

9.1.8 The grievance is considered to be frivolous, vexatious or malicious. The Chair of Governors may decide to exclude a grievance from this procedure if it is considered vexatious, malicious or not to have been raised in good faith, and if this is considered to amount to misconduct, the individual or individuals concerned may be subject to action under the school's conduct procedure.

10.0 Grievance resolution meeting – sample format for the meeting

- 10.1 *The chair of the panel introduces those present and explains the format and purpose of the meeting.*
- 10.2 *The complainant or their representative presents the detail of the grievance and can present documentary evidence if appropriate (any documents presented at the hearing must be provided to all those who will be in attendance at least 5 working days in advance).*
- 10.3 *Witnesses may also be called if appropriate (confirmation of any witnesses agreeing to attend the meeting should be given at least 5 working days in advance).*
- 10.4 *The headteacher / chair of governors / panel chair may ask the complainant or their representative questions relating to the presentation of the grievance and may ask questions of any witnesses.*
- 10.5 *The headteacher / chair of governors / panel chair responds to the grievance and may present documentary evidence if appropriate and may call witnesses.*
- 10.6 *The complainant or their representative may ask questions of the headteacher / chair of governors / panel chair relating to their response to the grievance and may also ask questions of any witnesses.*
- 10.7 *The panel may ask questions of the headteacher / chair of governors / panel chair or the complainant or the representative.*
- 10.8 *The headteacher / chair of governors / panel chair summarises the key points of their response to the grievance. No new information should be introduced at this stage.*
- 10.9 *The complainant or their representative summarises the key points of the case. No new information should be introduced at this stage.*
- 10.10 *The panel adjourns to consider their decision and the complainant/representative and the headteacher / chair of governors / panel chair leave the room.*
- 10.11 *The panel reconvenes to confirm their decision and explain reasons. If the panel is unable to come to a decision on the day of the meeting they will confirm this and give an idea of when a decision will be made and how it will be communicated.*
- 10.12 *The panel explains what action can be taken by the complainant if they remain dissatisfied and wish to appeal against the decision.*
- 10.13 *The panel confirms the decision in writing to all parties within 5 working days of the date of the meeting. Unless they have not been able to reach a decision on the day of the meeting,*

in which case they will keep the complainant informed of progress and provide a written outcome as soon as possible after the meeting.

11.0 Appeal meeting – sample format for the meeting

- 11.1 *The chair of the panel introduces those present and explains the purpose of the appeal and the procedure being followed.*
- 11.2 *The appellant or the representative explain the reasons for the appeal; including why and in what respects the appellant considers the decision of the grievance resolution meeting is unreasonable.*
- 11.3 *A member of the panel who heard the grievance (governor) may ask any questions regarding the appeal. If the appellant intends to present any documents (other than those that formed part of the grievance resolution meeting) the appellant should provide copies to all those who will be in attendance at least 5 working days before the appeal hearing.*
- 11.4 *The governor presents their response to the appeal.*
- 11.5 *The appellant or the representative may ask any questions of the governor.*
- 11.6 *The panel may ask questions of both the appellant and the governor.*
- 11.7 *The governor summarises their response to the appeal. New details should not be introduced at this stage.*
- 11.8 *The appellant or the representative summarises the grounds of the appeal. New details should not be introduced at this stage.*
- 11.9 *The panel adjourns to consider their decision and the appellant/the representative and the governor leave the room.*
- 11.10 *The panel reconvenes to confirm their decision and explain reasons.*
- 11.11 *The panel will normally confirm the decision in writing to all parties within 5 working days of the date of the appeal. If the appeal panel has been unable to reach a decision on the day of the meeting they will keep the appellant informed of progress and provide a written outcome as soon as possible after the meeting.*
- 11.12 *This decision of the appeal panel is final. There is no further right of appeal.*

12.0. Flowchart of grievance procedure

