

# **Grievance Policy and Procedure For Teachers and Support Staff**

**THIS POLICY APPLIES TO ALL TRUST SCHOOLS, THE CARMEL TEACHER  
TRAINING PARTNERSHIP AND CARMEL TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE**

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## **Carmel Education Trust Grievance Policy and Procedure**

### **DEFINITIONS**

In this Grievance Policy and Procedure, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

- i. 'Chair' means the Chair of the Board of Directors appointed from time to time.
- ii. 'Clerk' means the Clerk of the Board of Directors appointed from time to time.
- iii. 'Companion' means a willing work colleague not involved in the substance of the grievance issues under review by this Grievance Policy and Procedure, or an accredited Trade Union representative.
- iv. 'Board of Directors' means the academy trust and its Board of Directors.
- v. 'Directors' means the Directors appointed to the Board of Directors of the Trust,, from time to time.
- vi. 'Academy' means the academies, named at the beginning of this Grievance Policy and Procedure and includes all sites upon which the school undertaking is, from time to time, being carried out.
- vii. 'Vice-Chair' means the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors appointed from time to time.

### **1. SCOPE OF PROCEDURE**

1.1 This Grievance Policy and Procedure is available to you insofar as any grievance relates to your work within the School and you are an employee or worker of the Trust (hereinafter referred to as an "employee" or "you"). Grievances are concerns, problems or complaints that an employee has about unfair treatment in relation to their work, working conditions or relationships with colleagues.

1.2 This procedure **cannot** be used to:

- (a) complain about the use of any other procedure or process (e.g. disciplinary, capability, restructuring etc) in relation to you whilst that procedure is being followed;
- (b) against any formal or informal disciplinary sanction;
- (c) appeal against any decision to terminate your employment whether on grounds of ill-health, incapacity, redundancy, poor performance or other grounds;

- (d) appeal against selection for redundancy;
  - (e) complain about or appeal against any decision relating to pay or grading. Such matters are covered by the School's Pay Policy;
  - (f) complain about or appeal against any decision relating to your pension. Separate Dispute Resolution Procedures have been set up by the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the local fund of the Local Government Pension Scheme;
  - (g) complain about any matter that forms a collective grievance where the appropriate mechanism is for representations to be made by the appropriate trade union representatives;
  - (h) complain about any matter which is properly the subject of a statutory consultation process;
  - (i) complain about matters which have been, or should have been, brought under a separate policy or procedure operated by the Academy, such as the Trust's Complaints/Whistleblowing policy and procedure and those of the Public Interest Disclosure.
  - (j) complain about matters which are more than three months old (though this shall not prevent you referring to matters more than three months old in relation to a grievance which is otherwise live).
- 1.3 The Directors delegate their authority in the manner set out in this procedure.
- 1.4 The primary purpose of this procedure is to resolve current grievances.
- 1.5 The primary purpose is not to make findings of fact on historical matters (though this may be required in resolving some grievances).
- 1.6 The Trust's focus is on the remedial steps required to resolve a grievance.
- 1.7 The Trust does not speak of grievances being "against" any particular person but rather of grievances "relating" to a particular person.
- 1.8 The Trust shall seek to resolve any grievance raised by an employee during their notice period and/or garden leave period, using this procedure.
- 1.9 Where an employee has ceased to be an employee (for whatever reason), the Trust shall only consider post-termination grievances where it was not reasonably practicable for the employee to have raised such grievance during the course of their employment, subject always to paragraph 1.2(j).
- 1.10 There may be occasions where this procedure needs to be modified to comply with the requirements of the Trust's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies, for example, by allowing the Local Authority Designated Officer to offer advice to Directors at appropriate stages.
- 1.11 In this policy "working day" means any day on which you would ordinarily work if you were a full time employee. In other words, it will be different for teaching and non-teaching staff but will not be different on the basis of whether an employee is full-time or part-time.

## **2. POLICY STATEMENT**

- 2.1 The Trust values all of its employees and appreciates the essential role they play in delivering high quality education to its pupils. The Trust has a distinctive Catholic ethos and this should be reflected in the manner in which this policy is implemented. Where necessary advice and guidance should be sought from the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle and the Catholic Education Service.
- 2.2 The Trust also recognises that good employment relations practices – including those relating to recruitment, induction, training, communication and consultation – can prevent many grievances from arising.
- 2.3 The Trust aims to promote these areas through a number of proactive employment practices and initiatives.
- 2.4 The Trust asserts that all employees should be treated fairly and with respect. In cases where employees are unhappy about their treatment at work, or about any aspect of their work, they should raise their concerns immediately with their manager, who will try and resolve the situation on an informal basis.
- 2.5 If the concerns relate to the employee's manager, employees should still raise them directly with their manager if they feel able to do so. Where this is not possible, employees should discuss their concerns with the Headteacher / Head of School, or in cases where the grievance relates to the Headteacher / Head of School with the Chief Executive Officer. If the grievance relates to the Chief Executive Officer concerns should be raised with the Chair of the Board of Directors.

## **3. INFORMAL RESOLUTION**

Before raising a formal grievance under this procedure, you should try to resolve the matter informally either through your line manager or, where possible, with the other party.

#### 4. RESOLUTION MANAGERS

The Resolution Manager should, where possible, be someone not personally involved in the matter which is the subject of the grievance and will be appointed in accordance with the table below depending on the subject matter of the grievance.

Your Grievance relates to	Stage 1 Resolution Manager	Stage 2 Resolution Manager
Pupils, Parents or staff (other than the Headteacher)	Headteacher/Head of School	Chair of Directors or another non-staff Director nominated by the chair
Headteacher/Head of School	The CEO	Directors' Staff Hearings and Appeals Sub Committee appointed by the Vice-Chair of Directors
The CEO	The Chair of Directors	Directors' Staff Hearings and Appeals Sub Committee appointed by the Vice-Chair of Directors
A Director/Governor or Directors/Governors (other than the Chair of Directors)	The Chair of Directors	Directors' Staff Hearings and Appeals Sub Committee appointed by the Vice-Chair of Directors (or the Clerk to the Directors if the matter relates to the Vice-Chair of Directors)
The Chair of Directors (or a group of Directors including the Chair of Directors)	The Vice Chair of Directors or another non-staff Director (other than the Chair of Directors) nominated by the Clerk to Directors	Directors' Staff Hearings and Appeals Sub Committee appointed by the Vice-Chair of Directors (or the Clerk to the Directors if the matter relates to the Vice-Chair of Directors)
The whole body of Directors/Local Governing Body	The Board of Directors	A panel appointed by the Diocese

#### 5. POWERS OF RESOLUTION MANAGERS

5.1 As part of the resolution of a grievance raised under the formal procedure at Paragraph 6 below, a Resolution Manager will carry out an investigation into the allegations made by the employee in their Form GRP1 and/or GRP2 or as a result of anything discussed at a Stage 1 Resolution Meeting or a Stage 2 Resolution Meeting.

5.2 As part of the resolution of a grievance raised under the formal procedure at Paragraph 6 below, a Resolution Manager may, where he/she reasonably believes that such action will result in a partial or full resolution of the grievance:

- (a) Request an independent investigation be carried out into the allegations made by the employee in their Form GRP1 and/or GRP2 or as a result of anything discussed at a Stage 1 Resolution Meeting or a Stage 2 Resolution Meeting. The Clerk will appoint the independent investigator within 5 working days of a request by the Resolution Manager;

- (b) Make a recommendation that the employee who has raised the grievance attend independent mediation with any other party who is the subject of the grievance;
- (c) Recommend any other reasonable course of action.

5.3 Nothing in this Paragraph 5 shall prejudice the Academy's general right to deal with grievances with the assistance specified in Paragraph 12.

## **6. FORMAL GRIEVANCE**

### **6.1 Stage 1**

6.1.1 If you have not been able to resolve a problem through informal discussions in accordance with Paragraph 3, you must use Form GRP1 (available on the Academy Intranet or other relevant place as notified to you by the Academy) and submit it to the Clerk.

6.1.2 The Line Manager/Clerk, as appropriate, will formally appoint a Stage 1 Resolution Manager following the guidance in Paragraph 4 above.

6.1.3 The Stage 1 Resolution Manager will arrange to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss your grievance. This meeting is a Stage 1 Resolution Meeting and will normally be held within 10 working days of the Stage 1 Resolution Manager receiving your completed Form GRP1 from the Clerk.

6.1.4 The Stage 1 Resolution Manager will confirm the outcome of the Stage 1 Resolution Meeting in writing to you within 5 working days of the date of the Stage 1 Resolution Meeting ("the Stage 1 Resolution Letter").

### **6.2 Stage 2**

6.2.1 In the event that you are not satisfied with the outcome of the Stage 1 Resolution Meeting as set out in the Stage 1 Resolution Letter, you can appeal by sending a completed Form GRP2 (available on the Academy Intranet or other relevant place as notified to you by the Academy) to the Clerk within 5 working days of the Stage 1 Resolution Letter being sent to you.

6.2.2 The Clerk will formally appoint a Stage 2 Resolution Manager (who will not be the Stage 1 Resolution Manager) following the guidance in Paragraph 4 above.

6.2.3 The Stage 2 Resolution Manager will arrange to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss your appeal. This meeting is a Stage 2 Resolution Meeting and it will normally be held within 10 working days of receiving your completed Form GRP2 from the Clerk.

6.2.4 The Stage 2 Resolution Manager will confirm the outcome of the Stage 2 Resolution Meeting in writing to you within 5 working days of the date of the Stage 2 Resolution Meeting ("the Stage 2 Resolution Letter"). The decision of the Stage 2 Resolution Manager is final and there will be no further right of appeal.

## **7. DIRECTORS' APPEAL PANEL**

The Directors' Staff Hearings and Appeals Committee shall comprise three non-staff directors not previously involved in the matter and shall not comprise the Chair or Vice-Chair.

## **8. COMPANION**

- 8.1 If you are an employee and have presented a completed Form GRP1 you may be accompanied at any meetings under this procedure by a Companion.
- 8.2 You must let the relevant Resolution Manager know who your Companion will be at least one working day before the relevant Resolution Meeting.
- 8.3 If you have any particular reasonable need, for example, because you have a disability, you may also be accompanied by a suitable helper.
- 8.4 Your Companion can address the Resolution Meeting in order to:
  - (a) put your case;
  - (b) sum up your case; and
  - (c) respond on your behalf to any view expressed at the Resolution Meeting.
- 8.5 Your Companion can also confer with you during the meeting.
- 8.6 Your Companion has no right to:
  - (a) answer questions on your behalf;
  - (b) address the meeting if you do not wish it; or
  - (c) prevent you from explaining your case.
- 8.7 Where you have identified your Companion and they have confirmed in writing to the relevant Resolution Manager that they cannot attend the date or time set for the Resolution Meeting, the relevant Resolution Manager will postpone the Resolution Meeting for no more than five working days from the date set by the Academy to a date or time agreed with your Companion provided that it is reasonable in all the circumstances.

## **9. CONFIDENTIALITY AND TRANSPARENCY**

- 9.1 Proceedings and records of any grievance will be kept as confidential as possible but you must appreciate that circumstances can mean that grievances cannot always be dealt with on an entirely confidential basis.
- 9.2 A grievance you raise could result in the instigation of disciplinary action in respect of another employee and, to protect the confidentiality of that process, the Academy may not be able to inform you of the fact of the disciplinary process or of the disciplinary action which has been taken as a result of your grievance.
- 9.3 You should not disclose the fact or content of any grievance to any employee or third party without the express consent of the Resolution Manager (except that you are allowed to approach a prospective Companion. Failure to comply with this clause may render you liable to disciplinary action under the Trust's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

- 9.4 At the conclusion of your grievance, and after any related disciplinary or other processes have been completed, a report will be presented to the non-staff Directors at a full meeting of Directors as a confidential item.

## **10. TIMING OF MEETINGS**

Meetings under this procedure may:

- 10.1 need to be held when you were timetabled to teach.
- 10.2 exceptionally be held during planning, preparation and administration time if this does not impact on lesson preparation.
- 10.3 be held after the end of the School day.
- 10.4 not be held on days on which you would not ordinarily work.

## **11. VENUE FOR RESOLUTION MEETINGS**

If your grievance raises sensitive issues, the relevant Resolution Manager may hold the meeting off the School site.

## **12. FALSE, VEXATIOUS OR MALICIOUS GRIEVANCES**

Making a false, vexatious or malicious grievance under this procedure is a serious disciplinary offence which could result in dismissal for gross misconduct.

## **13. PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE/WHISTLEBLOWING**

You should be aware that a grievance may, in certain cases, amount to a protected disclosure under the Employment Rights Act (please see the Trust's Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure for further details). You will not be allowed to raise the same matter under both procedures.



