

DOCUMENT INFORMATION – FRONT SHEET

PURPLE: Trust Policy

This cannot be changed and will be put on the Trust website with link published on the School Website.

Please note - physically printed copies of this policy may be out of date. For the most up to date policy please go to the Trust website [here](#) **NEW TRUST WEBSITE LINK TO BE ADDED**

POLICY OWNER/AUTHOR	NEW POLICY	CURRENT POLICY - REDRAFT/AMENDMENTS	
Sian Griffiths	No	Yes	
VERSION HISTORY			
VERSION NO	Version 1 approved by the Trust Board 20.05.2024 Version 2 additions/amendments highlighted in yellow	PREVIOUS REVIEW DATE	20.05.2024
DATE APPROVED/REVIEWED	7 th July, 2025	APPROVED BY	Trust Board
REVIEW CYCLE	1 year initially and then biannually	NEXT REVIEW	31 st August, 2026
UNION CONSULTATION REQUIRED	No	IF YES, PLEASE STATE DATE OF CONSULTATION	N/A

*delete where applicable

OVERVIEW

All Academies and Trusts **must** have a Complaints Procedure, which must meet the requirements in the standard at the [Education \(Independent Trust/School Standards \(England\) Regulations 2014](#) Schedule 1, Part 7. This policy covers complaints about the Trust, CEO, Trustee and/or Chair of the Trust Board, complaints relating to specific schools within the Trust will be dealt with under the [Complaints \(Schools\) Policy](#).

The Complaints Policy is based upon [Part 7 of the Education \(Independent Trust/School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#). In accordance with [administrative law principles](#), complainants should be given the opportunity to complete the Complaints Procedure in full.

The Complaints Policy and Procedure will be reviewed by the Board initially annually and then biannually unless there are legislative changes or new guidance issued by the DFE within that timescale. The review timescale must be adhered to, failure to do so could constitute a failure to adhere to the procedure. The policy must be uploaded on to the Trust Website.

1. WHO CAN MAKE A COMPLAINT?

As public bodies, the Secretary of State for Education expects Academies to handle complaints respectfully and expediently. The following complaints are dealt with under separate statutory/non statutory procedures –

- 3rd Party Complaints
- **Complaint relating to an individual School.**
- Pupil - Admissions, Exclusions, SEND statutory assessments, National Curriculum, Safeguarding.
- Staff - Grievances, Conduct, Reorganisation Proposals and/or other HR policies/processes
- Third Party's using Trust/School facilities
- **Trustee or Governor Code of Conduct (for complaints which fall within the scope of the code)**
- Whistle Blowing

Where a complaint is dealt with under one of the above separate procedures it may not be possible to share the outcomes e.g. Staff Disciplinary, Safeguarding or Code of Conduct.

2. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CONCERN AND A COMPLAINT

A concern may be defined as *'an expression of worry or doubt over an issue considered to be important for which reassurances are sought'*.

A complaint may be defined as *'an expression of dissatisfaction however made, about actions taken or a lack of action'*.

It is in everyone's interest that concerns and complaints are resolved at the earliest possible stage. Many issues can be resolved informally, without the need to use the formal stages of the Complaints Policy & Procedure. The Trust will take concerns seriously and should make every effort to resolve the matter as quickly as possible.

3. ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS

Anonymous Complaints will not normally be investigated, however, the CEO or Chair of Trust Board, if appropriate, will determine whether the complaint warrants an investigation.

4. TIMESCALES

The complaint must be raised within 3 months of the incident or, where a series of associated incidents have occurred, within 3 months of the last of these incidents. In exceptional circumstances those timescales can be extended.

Wherever possible the Trust will adhere to the timescales as stated in this Complaints Policy, if this is not possible the delay and reason for the delay will be communicated to the complainant.

Where other bodies are investigating aspects of the complaint, for example the Police, Local Authority (LA) Safeguarding teams or Tribunals, this may impact on the Trusts ability to adhere to the timescales within this procedure or result in the procedure being suspended until those public bodies have completed their investigations.

If a complainant commences legal action against the Trust in relation to their complaint, consideration will be given as to whether to suspend the Complaints procedure in relation to their complaint until those legal proceedings have concluded.

Complaints received outside of term time will be deemed to have been received on the first School day after the holiday period.

5. RESOLVING COMPLAINTS

At each stage in the procedure, the Trust wants to resolve the Complaint. If appropriate, the Trust will acknowledge that the complaint is upheld in whole or in part. In addition, the Trust may offer one or more of the following:

- an explanation
- an admission that the situation could have been handled differently or better
- an assurance that the Trust will try to ensure the event 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 Trust Policies in light of the complaint
- an apology.

6. WITHDRAWAL OF A COMPLAINT

At any point during the process a complainant may withdraw their complaint, they will be asked to confirm this in writing.

7. HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN OR MAKE A COMPLAINT

a. INFORMAL STAGE

A concern or complaint can be made in person, in writing or by telephone and can also be made by a third party acting on behalf of a complainant, as long as they have appropriate consent to do so. In the first instance concerns should be raised with the relevant Staff member. If the issue remains unresolved, the next step is to make a formal complaint.

At no point during the process should complainants' approach individual Trustees/Members to raise concerns or complaints. Trustees/Members have no powers to act on an individual basis and it may also prevent them from considering complaints at Stage 2 of the procedure (prior knowledge). Where a direct approach is made to a Trustee, he/she should refer the matter to the CEO.

For ease of use, a Complaint Form (Appendix A) has been included in this Complaints Policy & Procedure.

b. STAGE 1

The **Lead Person** will only consider the complaint as stated on the Complaint Form and will not review any new complaints at this stage or consider evidence unrelated to the initial complaint. Any further/additional complaints must be dealt with separately and referred back to the Informal Stage (see 7a. above) of the Complaint Procedure. The table below sets out the roles and responsibilities during Stage 1 of the process. Depending on who the complaint concerns, the procedure may vary slightly.

Who is the complaint against	Who will lead on the complaint	Who will support	Who will investigate
Trust (as an entity)	CEO	Director of Governance	CEO
CEO	Chair and/or Vice Chair	Director of Governance	Chair and/or Vice Chair
Trustee (coopted appointed by Trustees)	Chair and/or Vice Chair	Director of Governance	Chair and/or Vice Chair
Trustee (member appointed)	Chair and/or Vice Chair	Director of Governance	Chair and/or Vice Chair
Chair (coopted trustee)	Vice Chair and/or Chair of a Committee ¹	Trusts Legal Advisor	Independent Investigator ³
Chair (member appointed trustee)	Members ²	Trusts Legal Advisor	Independent Investigator ³
Jointly about the Chair and Vice Chair	Members ²	Trusts Legal Advisor	Independent Investigator ³
Trust Board (whole)	Members ²	Trusts Legal Advisor	Independent Investigator ³
Trust Board (majority)	Members ²	Trusts Legal Advisor	Independent Investigator ³

¹ The Independent Investigator will be appointed by the Vice Chair or a Committee Chair (should the Vice Chair choose to delegate).

² The Members will meet to agree and appoint the Independent Investigator but no further business will be discussed or information shared to ensure they have no prior knowledge and could form a panel, if needed at a later date.

³ Independent Investigator (who has no prior knowledge or involvement with the Trust).

Where possible all complaints should be recorded on a complaint form and include details of the complaint, who has been contacted and possible outcomes to resolve the issue. The completed form should be sent to the Director of Governance email – governanceprofessionals@lifemultiacademytrust.org.uk.

The Lead Person will write to the complainant acknowledging the complaint within 3 school days of the date that the written request was received. The acknowledgement will confirm that the complaint will now be investigated under Stage 1 of this Complaints Policy and will confirm the date for providing a response to the complainant.

Following the investigation, the Lead Person will write to the complainant confirming the outcome within 15 school days of the date that the letter was received. If this time limit cannot be met, the Lead Person will write to the Complainant within 3 school days of the date that the letter was received, explaining the reason for the delay and providing a revised date.

The Lead Person should arrange a face to face meeting to discuss the contents of the Complaint Form.

During the investigation, the Lead Person will -

- if necessary, interview those involved in the matter and/or those complained of, allowing them to be accompanied if they wish
- keep a written record of any meetings/interviews in relation to their investigation.

At the conclusion of the investigation the Lead Person will provide a formal written response within 10 School days of the date of receipt of the complaint. If the Lead Person is unable to meet this deadline, they will provide the complainant with an update and revised response date.

The response will detail any actions taken to investigate the complaint and provide a full explanation of the decision made and the reason(s) for it. Where appropriate, it will include details of actions the Trust will take to resolve the complaint.

The Lead Person will advise the complainant of how to escalate their complaint should they remain dissatisfied with the outcome of Stage 1.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of Stage 1, the complainant should write to the Director of Governance, within 5 School days, email – governanceprofessionals@lifemultiacademytrust.org.uk asking for the complaint to be heard before a Complaint Panel. For further details please move to section 7c below.

c. STAGE 2

The Complaints Committee will only consider the complaint as stated on the Complaint Form and will not review any new complaints at this stage or consider evidence unrelated to the initial complaint. Any further/additional complaints must be dealt with separately and referred back to the informal (Stage 0) of the Complaint procedure. The table below sets out the roles and responsibilities during Stage 2 of the process. **Depending on who the complaint concerns, the procedure may vary slightly**

Who is the complaint against	Who will lead on the complaint	Who will support	Who has investigated under Stage 1 and will need to attend the panel meeting	Stage 2 Panel Composition
Trust (as an entity)	CEO	Director of Governance	CEO	3 Trustees with no prior knowledge ¹
CEO	Chair and/or Vice Chair	Director of Governance	Chair and/or Vice Chair	3 Trustees with no prior knowledge ¹
Trustee (coopted appointed by Trustees)	Chair and/or Vice Chair	Director of Governance	Chair and/or Vice Chair	3 Trustees with no prior knowledge ¹
Trustee (member appointed)	Chair and/or Vice Chair	Director of Governance	Chair and/or Vice Chair	3 Members with no prior knowledge ²
Chair (coopted trustee)	Vice Chair and/or Chair of a Committee ¹	Trusts Legal Advisor	Independent Investigator ³	3 Trustees with no prior knowledge ¹
Chair (member appointed trustee)	Members ²	Trusts Legal Advisor	Independent Investigator	3 Members with no prior knowledge ²
Jointly about the Chair and Vice Chair	Members ²	Trusts Legal Advisor	Independent Investigator ³	3 Members with no prior knowledge ²
Trust Board (whole)	Members ²	Trusts Legal Advisor	Independent Investigator ³	3 Members with no prior knowledge ²
Trust Board (majority)	Members ²	Trusts Legal Advisor	Independent Investigator ³	3 Members with no prior knowledge ²

¹ One of whom must be independent of the Trust, the exception would be – where the complainant has requested a committee of independent Trustees or where members of the Trust Board have prior knowledge and it is not possible to appoint **3** impartial Trustees.

² One of whom must be independent of the Trust, the exception would be – where the complainant has requested a committee of independent Members or where members of the Trust have prior knowledge and it is not possible to appoint 3 impartial Members.

³ Independent Investigator (who has no prior knowledge or involvement with the Trust).

Stage 2 is the final stage of the Trusts Complaints procedure. A request to escalate to Stage 2 must be made to the Director of Governance, within 5 School days, email – governanceprofessionals@lifemultiacademytrust.org.uk asking for the complaint to be heard before a Complaint Panel.

The Director of Governance will record the date the complaint is received and acknowledge receipt of the complaint in writing (either by letter or email) within 3 School days.

Requests received outside of this time frame will only be considered if exceptional circumstances apply.

A complaint which has been escalated to Stage 2 will be considered by a panel of 3 (for the composition please see the table above).

The Director of Governance will write to the complainant to inform them of the date of the meeting. They will aim to convene a meeting within 21 School days of receipt of the Stage 2 request. If this is not possible, the Director of Governance will provide an anticipated date and keep the complainant informed.

If the complainant rejects the offer of 3 proposed dates, without good reason, the Director of Governance will decide when to hold the meeting. It will then proceed in the complainant's absence on the basis of written submissions from both parties.

Prior to the meeting the panel members would decide amongst themselves who will act as the Chair of the Complaints Committee.

The Committee will decide whether to deal with the complaint by inviting parties to a meeting or through written representations, but in making their decision they will be sensitive to the complainant's needs and should ensure all parties are in agreement. Where a complainant chooses not to make a written submission and/or chooses not to attend the meeting then the Committee will review all evidence submitted and deliberate in the complainant's absence.

If the complainant is invited to attend the meeting, they may bring someone along to provide support, this can be a relative or friend. Generally either party should not be encouraged to bring legal representatives to the Committee meeting. However, there may be occasions when legal representation is appropriate, e.g if a member of Staff is called as a witness at a Complaint meeting, they may wish to be supported by union and/or legal representation.

Note: Complaints about Staff conduct will not generally be handled under the Complaints procedure. Complainants will be advised that any Staff conduct complaints will be considered under Staff Disciplinary procedures, if appropriate, but outcomes will not be shared with them.

Representatives from the media are not permitted to attend.

At least 15 School days before the meeting, the Director of Governance will -

- confirm and notify the complainant of the date, time and venue of the meeting, ensuring that, if the complainant is invited, the dates are convenient to all parties (subject to the 3 date option) and that the venue and proceedings are accessible. The meeting may be held remotely subject to the agreement of all parties.
- request copies of any further written material to be submitted to the Committee at least 10 School days before the meeting.

Any written material will be circulated to all parties at least 7 School days before the date of the meeting. The Committee will not normally accept, as evidence, recordings of conversations that were obtained covertly and without the informed consent of all parties being recorded.

The meeting will be held in private. Electronic recordings of meetings or conversations are not normally permitted unless a complainant's own disability or special needs require it and only with the consent of all parties. The parties consent will be recorded in any minutes taken.

The agenda and schedule of the meeting can be found at Appendix c, (Face to Face Meetings) and Appendix D (Virtual Meetings).

The Committee will consider the complaint and all the evidence presented. The Committee can:

- uphold the complaint in whole or in part
- dismiss the complaint in whole or in part.

If the complaint is upheld in whole or in part, the Committee will:

- decide on the appropriate action to be taken to resolve the complaint
- where appropriate, recommend changes to the Trust's systems or procedures to prevent similar issues in the future.

Note: in exceptional circumstances and in relation to more complex cases the Panel may choose to adjourn the meeting to further deliberate, request additional information or commission an Independent Investigation.

The Chair of the Committee, through the Director of Governance, will provide the complainant and the individual who the complaint has been made against with a full explanation of their decision and the reason(s) for it, in writing, within 5 School days.

The letter to the complainant will include details of how to contact the Department for Education if the complainant believes the Trust did not handle their complaint in accordance with the published Complaints procedure or they acted unlawfully or unreasonably in the exercise of their duties under education law, they can contact the Department for Education after they have completed Stage 2.

A written record will be kept of all complaints irrespective of whether they are resolved at the preliminary stage or proceed to a panel hearing, along with what actions have been taken, regardless of the decision.

All correspondence statements and records relating to individual complaints will be kept confidential, except where the Secretary of State or a body conducting an inspection under section 109 of the 2008 Act requests access to them.

The Department for Education will not normally reinvestigate the substance of complaints or overturn any decisions made by the Trust. They will consider whether the Trust has adhered to education legislation and any statutory policies connected with the complaint.

The complainant can refer their complaint to the DFE –

- a. calling the National Helpline on 0370 000 2288
- b. writing to the DFE at the following address - Academy Complaints and Customer Insight Unit, DFE, Cheylesmore House, Coventry, 5 Quinton Road, Coventry, CV1 2WT.

8. MANAGING SERIAL AND UNREASONABLE COMPLAINTS

LIFE Multi Academy Trust is committed to dealing with all complaints fairly and impartially, and to providing a high quality service to those who complain. We will not normally limit the contact complainants have with the Trust. However, we do not expect our Staff to tolerate unacceptable behaviour and will take action to protect Staff from that behaviour, including that which is abusive, offensive or threatening.

LIFE Multi Academy Trust defines unreasonable behaviour as that which hinders our consideration of complaints because of the frequency or nature of the complainant's contact with the Trust, such as, if the complainant:

- refuses to articulate their complaint or specify the grounds of a complaint or the outcomes sought by raising the complaint, despite offers of assistance.
- refuses to cooperate with the complaints investigation process
- refuses to accept that certain issues are not within the scope of the Complaints procedure
- insists on the complaint being dealt with in ways which are incompatible with the Complaints procedure or with good practice
- introduces trivial or irrelevant information which they expect to be taken into account and commented on
- raises large numbers of detailed but unimportant questions, and insists they are fully answered, often immediately and to their own timescales
- makes unjustified complaints about Staff who are trying to deal with the issues, and seeks to have them replaced
- changes the basis of the complaint as the investigation proceeds
- repeatedly makes the same complaint (despite previous investigations or responses concluding that the complaint is groundless or has been addressed)
- refuses to accept the findings of the investigation into that complaint where the Trusts Complaint procedure has been fully and properly implemented and completed including referral to the Department for Education
- seeks an unrealistic outcome
- makes excessive demands on the Trust's time by frequent, lengthy and complicated contact with Staff
- regarding the complaint in person, in writing, by email and by telephone while the complaint is being dealt with uses threats to intimidate
- uses abusive, offensive or discriminatory language or violence
- knowingly provides falsified information
- publishes unacceptable information on social media or other public forums.

Complainants should try to limit their communication with the Trust that relates to their complaint, while the complaint is being progressed. It is not helpful if repeated correspondence is sent (either by letter, phone, email or text), as this could delay the outcome being reached.

Whenever possible, the CEO or Chair of Trustees will discuss any concerns with the complainant informally before applying an '*unreasonable*' marking.

If the behaviour continues, the CEO will write to the complainant explaining that their behaviour is unreasonable and ask them to change it. For complainants who excessively contact the Trust causing a significant level of disruption, we

may specify methods of communication and limit the number of contacts in a communication plan. This will be reviewed after six months.

In response to any serious incident of aggression or violence, we will immediately inform the Police and communicate our actions in writing. This may include barring an individual from Trust premises.

As part of the application of this policy, the Trust may collect, process and store personal data in accordance with our data protection policy. We will comply with the requirements of Data Protection Legislation (being the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018) and any implementing laws, regulations and secondary legislation, as amended or updated from time to time. Records will be kept on the employee's personal file in accordance with our School Workforce Privacy Notice, our Records Management and Retention Policy and in line with the requirements of Data Protection Legislation.

9. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Complainant

The complainant will receive a more effective response to the complaint if they:

- explain the complaint in full as early as possible
- cooperate with the School in seeking a solution to the complaint
- respond promptly to requests for information or meetings or in agreeing the details of the complaint ask for assistance as needed
- treat all those involved in the complaint with respect
- refrain from publicising the details of their complaint on social media and respect confidentiality.

b. Investigator (CEO/Chair/Vice Chair/Independent Investigator)

The Investigator's role is to establish the facts relevant to the complaint by:

- providing a comprehensive, open, transparent and fair consideration of the complaint through:
 - sensitive and thorough interviewing of the complainant to establish what has happened and who has been involved
 - interviewing Staff and Children/Young People and other people relevant to the complaint
 - consideration of records and other relevant information
 - analysing information
- liaising with the complainant as appropriate to clarify what the complainant feels would put things right.

The Investigator should:

- conduct interviews with an open mind and be prepared to persist in the questioning
- keep notes of interviews or arrange for an independent note taker to record minutes of the meeting
- ensure that any papers produced during the investigation are kept securely pending any appeal
- be mindful of the timescales to respond
- prepare a comprehensive report for the headteacher or complaints committee that sets out the facts, identifies solutions and recommends courses of action to resolve problems.

The CEO/Chair/Vice Chair or Complaints Committee will then determine whether to uphold or dismiss the complaint and communicate that decision to the complainant, providing the appropriate escalation details.

a. **Director of Governance (or a suitably experienced Governance Professional) or Trust Legal Advisor**

The Director of Governance/**Trust Legal Advisor** is the contact point for the complainant and the committee and should:

- ensure that all people involved in the complaint procedure are aware of their legal rights and duties, including any under legislation relating to Trust/School complaints, education law, the Equality Act 2010, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- set the date, time and venue of the meeting, ensuring that the dates are convenient to all parties (if they are invited to attend), subject to the 3 date rule, and that the venue and proceedings are accessible
- collate any written material relevant to the complaint (for example; Stage 1 paperwork, Trust and Complainant submissions) and send it to the parties in advance of the meeting within the agreed timescale
- record the proceedings
- circulate the minutes of the meeting
- notify all parties of the committee's decision.

d. **Committee Chair**

The Committee's Chair, who is nominated in advance of the meeting, should ensure that:

- the Committee only considers the complaint as detailed on the Complaint Form.
- both parties are asked (via the Director of Governance/**Trust Legal Advisor**) to provide any additional information relating to the complaint by a specified date in advance of the meeting
- the meeting is conducted in an informal manner, is not adversarial, and that, if all parties are invited to attend, everyone is treated with respect and courtesy
- complainants who may not be used to speaking at such a meeting are put at ease. This is particularly important if the complainant is a child/young person
- the remit of the committee is explained to the complainant
- written material is seen by everyone in attendance, provided it does not breach confidentiality or any individual's rights to privacy under the DPA 2018 or GDPR.
- If a new issue arises and it would be useful to give everyone the opportunity to consider and comment upon it; this may require a short adjournment of the meeting
- both the complainant and the Trust are given the opportunity to make their case and seek clarity, either through written submissions ahead of the meeting or verbally in the meeting itself
- the issues are addressed
- key findings of fact are made
- the Committee is open minded and acts independently
- no member of the Committee has an external interest in the outcome of the proceedings or any involvement in an earlier stage of the procedure
- the meeting is minuted
- they liaise with the Director of Governance/**Trust Legal Advisor**.

e. **Committee Member**

Committee members should be aware that:

- the meeting must be independent and impartial and should be seen to be so no Trustee may sit on the committee if they have had prior involvement in the complaint or in the circumstances surrounding it.
- the aim of the meeting should be to resolve the complaint and achieve reconciliation between the Trust and the complainant it is recognised that the complainant might not be satisfied with the outcome if the meeting does not find in their favour. It may only be possible to establish the facts and make recommendations.
- many complainants will feel nervous and inhibited in a formal setting complainants in particular parents/carers often feel emotional when discussing an issue that affects their child.
- extra care needs to be taken when the complainant is a Child/Young Person and present during all or part of the meeting. Careful consideration of the atmosphere and proceedings should ensure that the Child/Young Person does not feel intimidated. The Committee should respect the views of the Child/Young Person and give them equal consideration to those of adults. If the Child/Young Person is the complainant, the Committee should ask in advance if any support is needed to help them present their complaint. Where the Child/Young Person's Parent is the complainant, the Committee should give the Parent the opportunity to say which parts of the meeting, if any, the Child/Young Person needs to attend. However, the Parent should be advised that agreement might not always be possible if the Parent wishes the child/young person to attend a part of the meeting that the committee considers is not in the child/young person's best interests.
- the welfare of the child/young person is paramount.



COMPLAINTS (TRUST) POLICY & PROCEDURE

APPENDIX A

Complaint Form please note this form is in pdf format, the form is available as a word document by either [clicking on this LINK](#) or contacting the Director of Governance, completed forms to be returned via email to – governanceprofessionals@lifemultiacademytrust.org.uk.

Your name:

Pupil's name (if relevant):

Your relationship to the pupil (if relevant):

Address:

Postcode:

Day time telephone number:

Evening telephone number:



COMPLAINTS (TRUST) POLICY & PROCEDURE

Please give details of your complaint, including whether you have spoken to anybody at the Trust about it.

What actions do you feel might resolve the problem at this stage?

Are you attaching any paperwork? If so, please give details.

Signature:

Date:

Official use

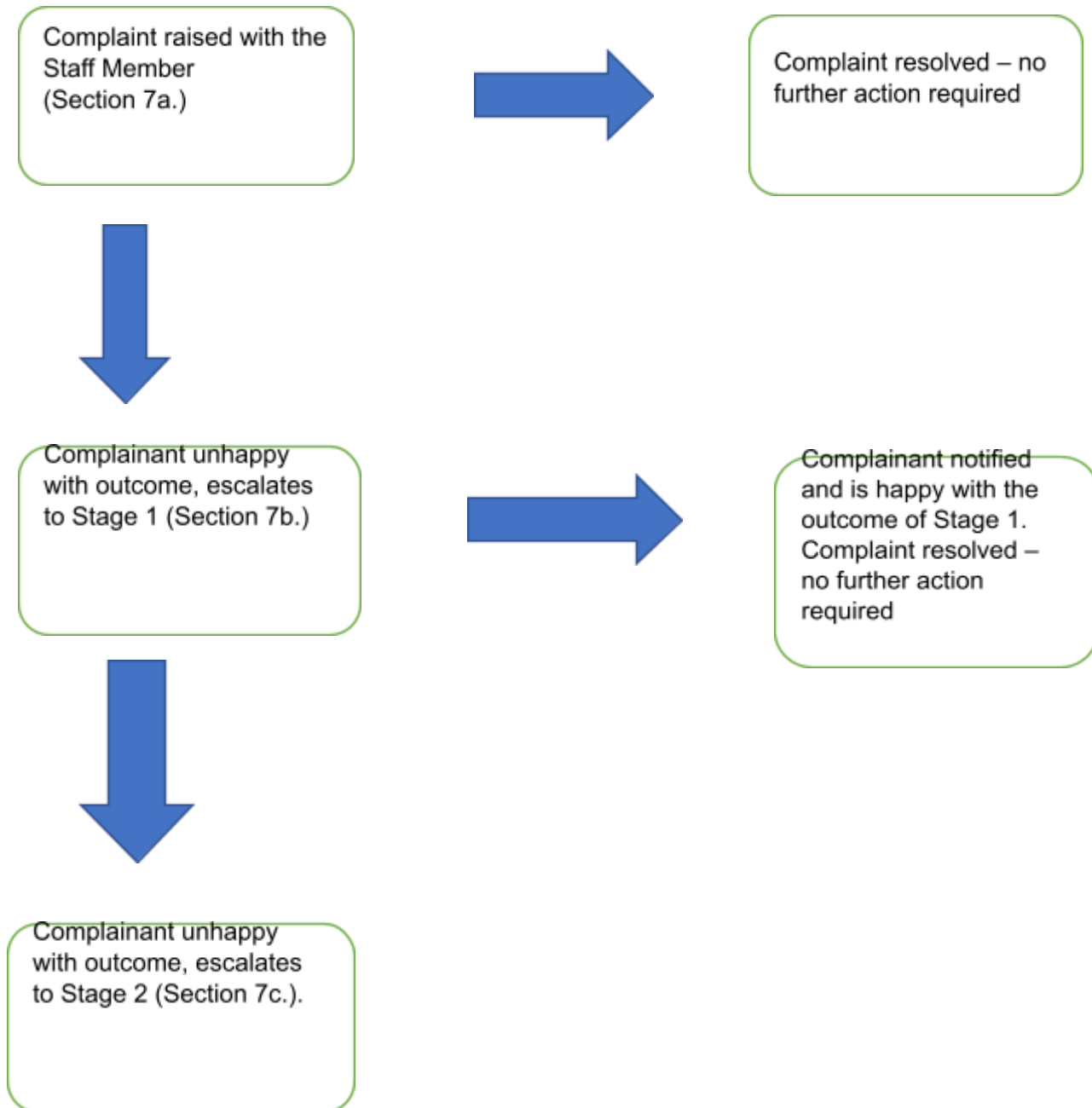
Date acknowledgement sent:

By who:

Complaint referred to:

Date:

APPENDIX B – FLOWCHART





COMPLAINTS (TRUST) POLICY & PROCEDURE

APPENDIX C, Agenda & Schedule Template, F2F Meeting

LIFE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

MEETING OF THE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON THE **DATE** AND **TIME**

PANEL MEMBERS – Chair, Panel Member, Panel Member

COMPLAINANT

TRUST REPRESENTATIVE

IN ATTENDANCE - GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONAL/TRUSTS LEGAL ADVISOR

AGENDA

1. 12.45 – 1.00pm, Chairs Welcome, Introductions, Schedule for the Meeting –
 - a. The Complaints Committee will only consider matters which relate to the complaint as stated on the Complaint Forms dated the **DATE OF THE COMPLAINT FORM**.
 - b. During the course of the meeting if any of the parties request a 'comfort break' the meeting will be adjourned and no further discussions will take place until such time as all parties are able to rejoin.
 - c. During the course of the meeting all parties will be given the opportunity to speak without interruption.
 - d. Questions will be taken once the individual has completed their response.
 - e. Parties may choose to be accompanied/supported however those individuals would not be involved in the proceedings.
 - f. The decision of the Complaints Committee will be conveyed in writing to all parties within 5 Trust/School working days of reaching their decision.
- .
2. 1.00 – 1.30pm, Complainants submission followed by questions from the Headteacher and/or Committee Members.
3. 1.30 – 2.00pm, Trust Representatives response followed by questions from the Complainant and/or Committee Members.
4. 2.00 – 2.30pm
 - a. Opportunity for summary by the Complainant.
 - b. Opportunity for summary by the Trust Representative.
5. 2.30pm Summing up by the Chair.

Complainant and Trust Representative leave the meeting.

The Committee will then consider the submissions from all the parties in accordance with the Trusts Complaint Policy and will then –



COMPLAINTS (TRUST) POLICY & PROCEDURE

- a. Dismiss the Complaint in whole or part,
- b. Uphold the Complaint in whole or part.

The Committee may also –

- a. Decide on appropriate action to be taken to resolve the Complaint,
- b. Recommend changes to the Trusts systems or procedures to ensure that problems of a similar nature do not recur.



COMPLAINTS (TRUST) POLICY & PROCEDURE

APPENDIX D, Agenda & Schedule Template, Virtual Meeting

LIFE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

MEETING OF THE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON THE **DATE** AT **TIME**

VIRTUAL MEETING

PANEL MEMBERS, **Chair, Panel Member, Panel Member**

COMPLAINANT

TRUST REPRESENTATIVE

IN ATTENDANCE - GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONLA/TRUSTS LEGAL ADVISOR

AGENDA

1. 12.45 – 1.00pm, Chairs Welcome, Introductions, Schedule for the Meeting –
 - a. All parties to confirm they will be in a secure and private place for the duration of the virtual meeting. If anyone during the meeting has problems with connectivity or sound etc they should raise their hand and the Clerk will bring this to the attention of the Chair.
 - b. The Complaints Committee will only consider matters which relate to the complaint as stated on the Complaint Forms dated the **DATE OF THE COMPLAINT FORM**.
 - c. As the meeting will be held remotely if anyone present drops out e.g loses signal the meeting will be adjourned and no further discussions will take place until such time as all parties are able to rejoin.
 - d. During the course of the meeting all parties will be given the opportunity to speak without interruption, all other parties are expected to remain on 'mute' except where they are providing their response or asking a question.
 - e. Questions will be taken once the individual has completed their response.
 - f. Parties may choose to be accompanied/supported however those individuals would not be involved in the proceedings.
 - g. The decision of the Complaints Committee will be conveyed in writing to all parties within 5 School working days of reaching their decision.
2. 1.00pm – 1.30pm, Complainants submission followed by questions from the Headteacher and/or Committee Members.
3. 1.30 – 2.00pm, Trusts Representative's response followed by questions from the Complainant and/or Committee Members.
4. 2.00 – 2.30pm
 - a. Opportunity for summary by the Complainant.
 - b. Opportunity for summary by the Trusts Representative.



COMPLAINTS (TRUST) POLICY & PROCEDURE

5. 2.30pm Summing up by the Chair.

Complainant and Trust Representative leave the meeting.

The Committee will then consider the submissions from all the parties in accordance with the Trust Complaint Policy and will then –

- a. Dismiss the Complaint in whole or part,
- b. Uphold the Complaint in whole or part.

The Committee may also –

- a. Decide on appropriate action to be taken to resolve the Complaint,
- b. Recommend changes to the Trust's systems or procedures to ensure that problems of a similar nature do not recur.