

	Managing Complaints and Grievances Policy	Endorsed by School Council: November, 2020 Developed: November 2020
Information: 02 6076 1566 Manager: Principal	DET Schools Reference Guide: changes to DET policies June 2020.	Next review: November 2023 Issue No: 1.0

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- provide an outline of the complaints process at Corryong College so that parents and members of the school community are informed of how they can raise complaints or concerns about issues arising at our school
- ensure that all complaints regarding Corryong College are managed in a timely, effective, fair and respectful manner.

SCOPE

This policy relates to complaints brought by parents, carers, students or members of our school community and applies to all matters relating to our school. Complaints are an important way for the school community to provide information and feedback to our school. Our school considers that every complaint provides a valuable opportunity for reflection and learning. In some limited instances, we may need to refer the complainant to another Department of Education and Training process where there are different mechanisms in place to review certain decisions, for example, expulsion appeals.

POLICY

Corryong College welcomes feedback, both positive and negative, and is committed to continuous improvement. We value open communication with our families and are committed to understanding complaints and addressing them appropriately. We recognise that the complaints process provides an important opportunity for reflection and learning. An effective complaint-handling system has a clear process for resolving complaints, treats people fairly, is timely and provides those people involved in a complaint with a fair opportunity to respond to issues and to present their views.

When addressing a complaint, it is expected that all parties will:

- be considerate of each other's views and respect each other's role
- be focused on resolution of the complaint, with the interests of the student involved at the centre
- act in good faith and cooperation
- behave with respect and courtesy
- respect the privacy and confidentiality of those involved, as appropriate
- operate within and seek reasonable resolutions that comply with any applicable legislation and Department policy.
- recognise that schools and the Department may be subject to legal constraints on their ability to act or disclose information in some circumstances.
- Parents are informed of how they can make a complaint at their child's school.

Preparation for raising a concern or complaint

Corryong College encourages parents, carers or members of the community who may wish to submit a complaint to:

- carefully consider the issues you would like to discuss
- remember you may not have all the facts relating to the issues that you want to raise
- think about how the matter could be resolved
- be informed by checking the policies and guidelines set by the Department of Education and Corryong College.
- Further information and resources. See Resources

Complaints process

Corryong College is always happy to discuss with parents/carers and community members any concerns that they may have. Concerns in the first instance should be directed to your child's teacher and Year Level Coordinators. Where possible, school staff will work with you to ensure that your concerns are appropriately addressed.

Where concerns cannot be resolved in this way, parents or community members may wish to make a formal complaint to the Principal or Assistant Principal. If you would like to make a formal complaint, in most cases, depending on the nature of the complaint raised, our school will first seek to understand the issues and will then convene a resolution meeting with the aim of resolving the complaint together. The following process will apply:

1. **Complaint received:** Please outline your complaints through the College either by email corryong.co@education.vic.gov.au, telephone (02) 6076 1566 or arrange a meeting through the front office so that we can fully understand what the issues are. We can discuss your complaint in a way that is convenient for you, whether in writing, in person or over the phone.
2. **Information gathering:** Depending on the issues raised in the complaint, the teacher/Year Level Leader may need to gather further information to properly understand the situation. This process may also involve speaking to others to obtain details about the situation or the concerns raised.
3. **Response:** Where possible, a resolution meeting will be arranged to discuss the complaint with the objective of reaching a resolution satisfactory to all parties. If after the resolution meeting we are unable to resolve the complaint together, we will work with you to produce a written summary of the complaint in the event you would like to take further action. In some circumstances, the Principal may determine that a resolution meeting would not be appropriate. In this situation, a response to the complaint will be provided in writing.
4. **Timelines:** Corryong College will acknowledge receipt of your complaint as soon as possible (usually within three school days) and will seek to resolve complaints in a timely manner. Depending on the complexity of the complaint, Corryong College may need some time to gather enough information to fully understand the circumstances of your complaint. We will endeavour to complete any necessary information gathering and hold a resolution meeting where appropriate within 10 working days of the complaint being raised. In situations where further time is required, Corryong College will consult with you and discuss any interim solutions to the dispute that can be put in place.

Resolution

Where appropriate, Corryong College may seek to resolve a complaint by:

- an apology or expression of regret
- a change of decision
- a change of policy, procedure or practice
- offering the opportunity for student and family counselling or other support
- other actions consistent with school values that are intended to support the student, parent and school relationship, engagement, and participation in the school community.

In some circumstances, Corryong College may also ask you to attend a meeting with an independent third party, or participate in a mediation with an accredited mediator to assist in the resolution of the dispute.

Escalation

If you are not satisfied that your complaint has been resolved by the school, or if your complaint is about the Principal and you do not want to raise it directly with them, then the complaint should be referred to the Benalla Regional office by contacting Phone:- 03 57612100 – email nevr.admin@education.vic.gov.au

Corryong College may also refer a complaint to Benalla Regional Office if we believe that we have done all we can to address the complaint.

For more information about the Department's *Parent Complaints* policy, including the role of the Regional Office, please see: [Parent Complaints policy](#).

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on November 2020 and is scheduled for review on November 2023.