



The Catlins Area School

Term 3, 2021

Concerns and Complaints

This policy provides staff members, parents/caregivers, and the wider school community with clear guidelines for raising and resolving concerns and complaints.

We encourage open communication and prefer that you come to us to talk through any issues rather than discussing them in the community.

We have procedures in place to ensure that complaints and concerns are handled appropriately. Our procedures enable us to:

- maintain a safe environment for our students and staff
- treat all people fairly, transparently, and with dignity and respect
- resolve matters of concern early, if possible
- respond to feedback and concerns constructively
- deal with complaints fairly, effectively, and in a timely manner
- take into account individual circumstances
- maintain confidentiality
- preserve and enhance school and community relationships
- monitor and record complaints and concerns about student safety and wellbeing.

Most concerns can be resolved informally through discussions with the people concerned. See **Guidelines for Raising Concerns**. The school also has a procedure for making a **formal complaint** if informal discussion doesn't resolve the issue.

For complaints concerning harassment, see **Harassment**. For allegations of theft or fraud, see **Theft and Fraud Prevention**. School employees needing to make a protected disclosure, see **Protected Disclosure**.

We will be able to manage your concerns and complaints more effectively if you raise them with us promptly.

Complaints about events that occurred more than three months earlier, do not involve you or your children, or which have been made anonymously, will not usually be formally investigated.

SchoolDocs appreciates the guidance of Fiona McMillan (fiona.mcmillan@al.nz) from Anderson Lloyd, and David Beck (david@sblaw.nz) of SB Law incorporating RA Fraser & Associates, who have separately reviewed the changes we made to the Complaints section as a result of our three yearly review.

We recommend boards of trustees seek legal advice at the earliest stages of any serious complaint to ensure the correct process is followed.

Legislation

- Employment Relations Act 2000

Release history: Term 1 2019, December 2015, 29 November 2014, 10 January 2013, 30 March 2010



IN THIS SECTION

Guidelines for Raising Concerns

Formal Complaint

Investigate a Formal Complaint or Serious Allegation

Student Complaints

<i>Last scheduled review</i>	<i>Term 3 2018</i>
<i>Last internal review</i>	<i>Term 3 2018</i>
<i>Topic type</i>	<i>Core Generic</i>