



Parklands
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
Foundations for life

Dispute Resolution Policy

Approved by the Board of Parklands Christian College

Reviewed and current as of 21 April 2022

Christian Education P-12 11 Hillcrest Road Park Ridge Qld 4125 P: (07) 3380 4200 F: (07) 3380 0711

E: admin@parklands.qld.edu.au www.parklands.qld.edu.au

ABN: 58 097 063 584



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

Section:	3 – Human Resources		
Item:	Policy – Dispute Resolution (ISQ equivalent-Complaints Handling Policy Jan 2018)	Item No:	3.22
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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that student, parent and employee disputes are dealt with in a responsive, efficient, effective and fair way

2. SCOPE

Students, parents and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual employees, as well as contractors, volunteers and people undertaking work experience or vocational placements.

3. INTRODUCTION

1. Parklands Christian College is committed to ensuring that student, parent and employee disputes are dealt with in a responsive, efficient, and effective and fair way.
2. Parklands Christian College views complaints and disputes as part of an important feedback and accountability process.
3. Parklands Christian College acknowledges the right of students, parents and employees to complain when dissatisfied with an action, inaction or decision of the school and the school encourages such feedback.
4. Parklands Christian College recognises that time spent on handling disputes can be an investment in better service to students, parents and employees.

4. REFERENCES

1. Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulations 2017
2. Australian Education Regulations 2013
3. Fair Work Act 2009
4. Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)
5. Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
6. Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)
7. Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth)
8. Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)



9. Age Discrimination Act 2004 (Cth)
10. Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
11. Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)
12. Human Rights Act (2019 Qld)

5. RELATED POLICIES

[2.60 Policy – Privacy](#)

[3.05 Policy - Antidiscrimination](#)

[3.20 Policy – Disability Discrimination](#)

[3.55 Policy - Sexual Harassment](#)

[3.60 Policy – Student Bullying](#)

[3.63 Policy - Student Protection](#)

[3.80 Policy - Work Health and Safety](#)

[3.90 Policy - Workplace Bullying](#)

Parklands Christian College Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

6. TYPES OF DISPUTES THAT MAY BE RESOLVED UNDER THIS POLICY

Parklands Christian College encourages students, parents and employees to promptly lodge concerns regarding sexual harassment, discrimination, workplace bullying, privacy breaches and non-compliance with child protection processes as well as more general complaints that include areas such as:

- a. the school, its employees or students have done something wrong
- b. the school, its employees or students have failed to do something that they should have done
- c. the school, its employees or students have acted unfairly or impolitely
- d. issues of employee behaviour are contrary to the relevant code of conduct
- e. learning programs, assessment and reporting of student learning
- f. Communication with students or parents or between employees
- g. School fees and payments
- h. General administrative issues

Student complaints may be brought by students or by parents on behalf of their children, as appropriate in the circumstances.

7. ISSUES OUTSIDE OF THIS POLICY

The following matters are outside of the scope of this policy and should be managed as follows:

1. Child protection concerns or risks of harm to children should be dealt with in accordance with the law and the College's Student Protection Policy.
2. Student bullying complaints should be dealt with under the Student Bullying Policy.
3. Student discipline matters, including matters involving suspension or expulsion, should be dealt with under the Behaviour Education Policy.
4. Employee complaints related to their employment should be directed to their supervisor.
5. Student or employee violence or criminal matters should be directed to the College Principal who will involve the Police as appropriate.
6. An Employee or Parent Complaint challenging the College about an alleged Human Right under the Qld Act being denied to the employee or the parents child.

8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRINCIPLES

Parklands Christian College is committed to managing disputes according to the following principles:

1. When resolving a dispute consider the following scripture references: Romans 12v18; Ephesians 4v25; James 1v19,20; and 1 Peter 3v 9
2. Disputes will be resolved with as little formality and disruption as possible
3. Disputes will be taken seriously
4. Anonymous complaints will be treated on their merits like any other dispute when possible



5. Disputes will be dealt with fairly and objectively and in a timely manner
6. Mediation, negotiation and informal resolution are optional alternatives to investigation
7. Procedural fairness will be ensured wherever practicable
8. Natural justice principles will be observed wherever practicable
9. Confidentiality and privacy will be maintained as much as possible
10. All parties to the dispute will be appropriately supported
11. All parties are entitled to reasonable progress updates
12. Appropriate remedies will be offered and implemented
13. A review mechanism will be offered
14. Complainants, respondents and people associated with them will not be victimised as a result of lodging the dispute nor will they suffer any other reprisals
15. The school will keep confidential records of disputes

9. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. School

The school has the following role and responsibilities:

- a. Develop, implement, promote and act in accordance with the school's Dispute Resolution Policy and procedures
- b. Appropriately communicate the school's Dispute Resolution Policy and procedures to students, parents and employees
- c. Upon receipt of a dispute, manage the dispute in accordance with the Dispute Resolution model prescribed in the procedures
- d. Ensure that appropriate support is provided to all parties to a dispute
- e. Take appropriate action to prevent the victimisation or action in reprisal against the complainant, respondent or any person associated with them
- f. Appropriately implement remedies
- g. Appropriately train relevant employees
- h. Keep appropriate records
- i. Monitor and report on disputes
- j. Refer to the school's governing body immediately any claim for legal redress arises

2. All Parties to a Dispute

The complainant and respondent have the following role and responsibilities:

- a. Apply and comply with the school's Dispute Resolution Policy and procedures
- b. Lodge disputes promptly as soon as possible after the issue occurs or as otherwise appropriate
- c. Expect that the dispute will be dealt with fairly and objectively; in a timely manner; with procedural fairness wherever practicable; that natural justice principles will be observed wherever practicable; that confidentiality and privacy will be maintained as much as possible
- d. Provide complete and factual information in a timely manner
- e. Not provide deliberately false or misleading information
- f. Not make frivolous or vexatious complaints
- g. Act in good faith, and in a calm and courteous manner
- h. Show respect and understanding of each other's point of view and value difference, rather than judge and blame
- i. Act in a non-threatening manner
- j. To be appropriately supported
- k. Acknowledge that a common goal is to achieve an outcome acceptable to all parties
- l. Recognise that all parties have rights and responsibilities which must be balanced
- m. Maintain and respect the privacy and confidentiality of all parties
- n. Not victimise or act in reprisal against any party to the dispute or any person associated with them



3. Employees Receiving Disputes / Complaints

Employees receiving disputes have the following role and responsibilities:

- a. Act in accordance with the school's Dispute Resolution Policy and procedures
- b. Inform the party lodging the dispute of how disputes can be lodged, when they should be lodged and what information is required
- c. Provide the complainant with information about any support or assistance available to assist them in lodging their complainant
- d. Provide the complainant with a copy of the school's Dispute Resolution Policy and procedures
- e. Maintain confidentiality in accordance with the Parklands Christian College Privacy Policy.
- f. Keep appropriate records in accordance with the Parklands Christian College Privacy Policy.
- g. To forward complaints to more senior employees, including the Principal, as appropriate
- h. To be appropriately supported
- i. Not victimise or act in reprisal against the complainant, respondent or any person associated with them

10. IMPLEMENTATION

1. Parklands Christian College is committed to raising awareness of the process for resolving disputes at the school, including by the development and implementation of this policy and related procedures, and via the clear support and promotion of the policy and procedures.
2. Parklands Christian College is also committed to appropriately training relevant employees (especially senior staff) on how to resolve disputes in line with this policy and the related procedures.
3. Parklands Christian College will keep appropriate records of disputes, will monitor disputes and their resolution and will report on a high-level basis to the school Board on dispute resolution at the school.
4. Parklands Christian College will act to encourage students, parents and employees to contribute to a healthy school culture where disputes are resolved with as little formality and disruption as possible.

11. FURTHER INFORMATION

Please refer to:

- [3.22 Procedure – Dispute Resolution](#)
- [Form 1: Grievance Prevention](#) (Included with 3.22 Procedure)

12. APPROVAL

This policy was approved by the Board of Parklands Christian College at its meeting held on the 21st April 2022

Signed:


Chairperson


Secretary

Name: John Henry Blase

Name: Jeffrey Bernard Gray

Date: 21st April 2022

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