



Bransgore Village Hall, Burley Road, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 8AY
Tel:01425 673903

Making a complaint policy

Policy statement

We believe that children and parents are entitled to expect courtesy and prompt, careful attention to their needs and wishes. We welcome suggestions on how to improve our setting and will give prompt and serious attention to any concerns about the running of the setting. We anticipate that most concerns will be resolved quickly by an informal approach with the appropriate member of staff. If this does not achieve the desired result, we have a set of procedures for dealing with concerns. We aim to bring all concerns about the running of our setting to a satisfactory conclusion for all the parties involved.

Procedures

All settings are required to keep a written record of any complaints that reach stage two and above and their outcome. This is to be made available to parents as well as to Ofsted inspectors on request. A full procedure is set out in the Pre-school Learning Alliance publication Complaint Investigation Record (2012) which acts as the 'summary log' for this purpose.

Making a complaint

Stage 1

- Any parent who has a concern about an aspect of our setting's provision talks over his/her concerns with our supervisor first.
- Most complaints should be resolved amicably and informally at this stage.
- We record the issue and how it was resolved in the children's file.

Stage 2

- If this does not have a satisfactory outcome, or if the problem recurs, the parent moves to this stage of the procedure by putting the concerns or complaint in writing to the supervisor

and the chair of the management committee –Kimberly Thomas, Bransgore Village Hall, Burley Road, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 8AY. Email: jackandjillbusiness@gmail.com

- For parents who are not comfortable with making written complaints, there is a template form for recording complaints in the Complaint Investigation Record; the form may be completed with the person in charge and signed by the parent.
- Our setting stores all information relating to written complaints from parents in the child's personal file. However, if the complaint involves a detailed investigation, our supervisor may wish to store all information relating to the investigation in a separate file designated for this complaint.
- When the investigation into the complaint is completed, our supervisor meets with the parent to discuss the outcome.
- We inform parents of the outcome of the investigation within 28 days of him/her making the complaint.
- When the complaint is resolved at this stage, we log the summative points in the Complaint Investigation Record which is made available to Ofsted on request.

Stage 3

- If the parent is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation, he or she requests a meeting with our supervisor and the chair of our management committee. The parent may have a friend or partner present if they prefer and our supervisor should have the support of the chairperson of our management committee.
- An agreed written record of the discussion is made, as well as any decision or action to take as a result. All of the parties present at the meeting sign the record and receive a copy of it.
- This signed record signifies that the procedure has concluded. When the complaint is resolved at this stage, we log the the summative points in the Complaint Investigation Record.

Stage 4

- If at the stage three meeting the parent cannot reach agreement with us, we invite an external mediator to help to settle the complaint. This person should be acceptable to both parties, listen to both sides and offer advice. A mediator has no legal powers but can help

us to define the problem, review the action so far and suggest further ways in which it might be resolved.

- Staff or volunteers within the Pre-school Learning Alliance are appropriate persons to be invited to act as mediators.
- The mediator keeps all discussions confidential. S/he can hold separate meetings with our staff and the parent, if this is decided to be helpful. The mediator keeps an agreed written record of any meetings that are held and of any advice s/he gives.

Stage 5

- When the mediator has concluded her/his investigations, a final meeting between the parent and our supervisor and the chair of our management committee is held. The purpose of this meeting is to reach a decision on the action to be taken to deal with the complaint. The mediator's advice is used to reach this conclusion. The mediator is present at the meeting if all parties think this will help a decision to be reached.
- A record of this meeting, including the decision on the action to be taken, is made. Everyone present at the meeting signs the record and receives a copy of it. This signed record signifies that the procedure has concluded.

The role of the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) and the Local Safeguarding Children Board or local safeguarding partners and the Information Commissioner's Office

- Parents may approach Ofsted directly at any stage of this complaints procedure. In addition, where there seems to be a possible breach of the setting's registration requirements, it is essential to involve Ofsted as the registering and inspection body with a duty to ensure the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage are adhered to.
- Parents can complain to Ofsted by telephone or in writing to:

Applications, Regulatory and Contact (ARC) Team, Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street,
Manchester M1 2WD

Telephone 0300 123 1231
- These details are displayed on our setting's notice board.

- If a child appears to be at risk, we follow the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board or local safeguarding partners.
- In these cases, both the parent and our setting are informed, and our supervisor works with Ofsted or the Local Safeguarding Children Board or local safeguarding partners to ensure a proper investigation of the complaint, followed by appropriate action.
- The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) can be contacted if you have made a complaint about the way your data is being handled and remain dissatisfied after raising your concern with us. For further information about how we handle your data, please refer to the Privacy Notice given to you when you registered your child at [our/my] setting. The ICO can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or ico.org.uk

Agencies

- If an individual from another agency wishes to make a formal complaint about a member of staff or any practice of the setting, it should be made in writing to the setting manager.
- The complaint is acknowledged in writing within 10 days of receiving it.
- The setting manager investigates the matter and meets with the individual to discuss the matter further within 28 days of the complaint being received.
- An agreement needs to be reached to resolve the matter.
- If agreement is not reached, the complainant may write to the setting manager's line manager, who acknowledges the complaint within 5 days and reports back within 14 days.
- If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation, they are entitled to appeal and are referred to Ofsted.

Records

- A record of complaints in relation to our setting, or the children or the adults working in our setting is kept for at least three years; including the date, the circumstances of the complaint and how the complaint was managed.

- The outcome of all complaints is recorded in our Complaint Investigation Record, which is available for parents and Ofsted inspectors on request.
- In all cases where a complaint is upheld a review will be undertaken by the owners/directors/trustees to look for ways to improve practice where it is required.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of

Jack and Jill Pre-school

Held on

Date to be reviewed

June 2026

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Name of signatory

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)

Further guidance

- [Complaint Investigation Record](#) (Alliance Publication)