



**EYNESBURY**  
**COLLEGE**

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# PARENT COMPLAINTS POLICY

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## SECTION A - INTRODUCTION

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### A.1 Purpose

It is recognised that, from time to time, complaints may be received by Eynesbury College from parents in its community. This policy outlines the options that parents have if they choose to lodge a complaint with Eynesbury College.

### A.2 Scope

This policy applies to the parents of all current and prospective students under the age of 18 in any of the programs operated by Eynesbury College. It does not cover Domestic students enrolled in Eynesbury Senior College.

### A.3 Definitions

<b>Word/Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Bona fide complaint	A complaint lodged in good faith and without frivolous, malicious or vexatious intent
Complaint	A complaint may arise if a parent believes that the school has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Done something wrong</li> <li>• Failed to do something that it should have done</li> <li>• Acted unfairly, unreasonable, inappropriately or unprofessionally</li> </ul>
Complainant	The party lodging the complaint
Domestic student	A student who is an Australian citizen, an Australian Permanent Resident (includes holders of all categories of permanent resident visas including humanitarian visas) or a New Zealand citizen
Formal complaint	A complaint lodged in writing
Informal complaint	Direct communication/discussion by and between the parties themselves
Natural justice and procedural fairness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All parties are entitled to be treated with respect and to be heard</li> <li>• All parties should participate fully in the resolution process to achieve an outcome that is realistic and reasonable</li> <li>• A person who is the subject of a complaint should be informed of the substance thereof and given a full opportunity to present their perspective</li> <li>• All parties have a right to seek advice and support</li> <li>• Investigations and proceedings must be conducted fairly, thoroughly and without bias or undue delay</li> <li>• Parties should provide all relevant, material, complete and factual information, documents or other evidence relating to the complaint</li> </ul>
Parent	Parent, guardian and caregiver

### A.4 Acronyms

**Abbreviation    Phrase or Word**

None

## SECTION B - POLICY STATEMENT

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### B.1 Principles

Eynesbury College is committed to:

- delivering education and care of the highest quality
- ensuring that the school is a safe and fair place in which to work and study
- actively promoting the development of positive and respectful relationships and seeking to minimise the incidence of conflict

### B.2 Policy

#### 1 Raising a complaint or concern

- 1.1** Parents are entitled to lodge a bona fide complaint with Eynesbury College.
- 1.2** Every reasonable effort will be made by Eynesbury College to ensure that a parent who lodges a complaint or anyone dealing with or involved in the complaint will be treated fairly and not victimised, coerced or intimidated.
- 1.3** Each complaint will be dealt with on its particular circumstances and merits and any settlements reached or determinations made through the resolution process will not necessarily constitute any binding precedent for future or similar cases.
- 1.4** In responding to a complaint, informally or formally, every reasonable effort will be made to ensure that natural justice and procedural fairness are afforded to all parties.
- 1.5** Complaints or concerns raised in accordance with this policy cannot also be raised in accordance with the **Student Grievances and Appeals Policy**.

#### 2 Complaints

##### 2.1 Informal complaints

- 2.1.1** Eynesbury College encourages and supports complainants to seek to resolve complaints as soon as practicable in an informal and amicable manner.

##### 2.2 Formal complaints

- 2.2.1** Formal complaints should only be lodged when a matter cannot be resolved by the parties themselves through informal means.

##### 2.3 Complaints in relation to the College Director

- 2.3.1** In instances where a complaint involves the College Director, the complainant may, if they feel the matter cannot otherwise be resolved or feel it is inappropriate to do so, lodge a formal complaint with the Manager once removed.
- 2.3.2** In consultation with the complainant, the Manager once removed will take all reasonable steps to have the complaint fully investigated and to facilitate a resolution.

## **2.4 External resolution of complaints**

**2.4.1** When a complaint is not or cannot be resolved within Eynesbury College, the parties may seek the assistance of external professional agencies or other relevant bodies in order that a further attempt can be made to resolve the matter.

## **2.5 Withdrawal of a complaint**

**2.5.1** A parent may withdraw a complaint at any stage of the resolution process. If a complaint is withdrawn, the matter will be deemed to be closed, unless the school wishes to continue to address a matter raised.

## **3 Confidentiality, discretion and Eynesbury College's duty or obligation to notify or report**

**3.1** If a parent chooses to make a complaint without disclosing their identity, this will limit the options for proper and thorough investigation and resolution. It also raises issues in relation to procedural fairness for those who have a complaint made about them. Eynesbury College therefore cannot guarantee that anonymous complaints can or will be dealt with and encourages complainants to identify themselves.

**3.2** As far as possible, due discretion will be respected and maintained by all parties throughout the resolution process, except where persons are required to be informed on a 'need to know' basis or where investigative, statutory or legal requirements stipulate that matters be disclosed, reported or discussed. Therefore, there can be no overriding legal obligation or right with respect to confidentiality.

**3.3** Where complaints are made in circumstances where an alleged crime may have been committed or the matter falls under the Reporting Abuse and Neglect provisions, the Police or similar outside agencies will be contacted and formally advised as per the Navitas SA **Mandatory Notification Policy**.

## **4 Record keeping**

**4.1** Accurate and appropriate records of all complaints will be retained by Eynesbury College in a secure location.

## SECTION C - GOVERNANCE

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### C.1 Responsibility

<b>Identification</b>	Parent Complaints Policy
<b>Policy Owner</b>	College Director
<b>Approving Authority</b>	Eynesbury Executive Group
<b>Initial Issue date</b>	15 September 2015
<b>Directory Location</b>	Policies, Eynesbury, College Directors Office

### C.2 Version Control

<b>Current Version Number</b>	2.0
<b>Date of Effect</b>	12/2018
<b>Review Date</b>	12/2021
<b>Privilege Level</b>	Public

### C.3 Legislative and Organisational Context

<b>Name</b>
<a href="#">Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017</a>

## **SECTION D - PROCEDURE**

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### **D.1 Related Procedures**

*Parent Complaints Procedure currently being developed*

### **D.2 Related Policies**

Navitas SA Mandatory Notification Policy

Navitas Privacy Policy

Student Grievances and Appeals Policy