Community Language Schools

Guidelines for Parent/Guardian complaints

As is the case for children attending mainstream schools, parents/guardians of children attending accredited community language schools are encouraged to contact the child’s teacher to discuss general issues in relation to their child’s languages program including:

* individual student needs
* academic progress
* behaviour and discipline issues
* non-attendance or truancy
* challenging or changing family circumstances.

General issues best raised with the school principal could include:

* school facilities
* excursions
* school fees and charges
* student assessment and reporting
* timing of special events
* homework policy
* student dress codes.

The child's community language school should always be the first point of contact. Issues are best resolved at the school. Community Languages Victoria (CLV) which is the umbrella organisation for accredited community language schools, expects most issues to be resolved at the school level.

The following guidelines will support parents/guardians who wish to make a formal complaint in relation to their child’s attendance at an accredited community language school.

In making a complaint or seeking to resolve an issue, parents/guardians must follow the next three steps.

STEP 1

Raising an issue with the teacher

Teaching and learning works best when parents/guardians and teachers talk to each other and work together to resolve problems. To address a particular issue, parents/guardians should:

* make an appointment with the class teacher to discuss the issue.
* plan what to say so you can clearly explain the issue.
* listen to the teacher’s response.
* make a note of the people you spoke to and the date you spoke with them.
* outline the steps already taken to resolve the issue.
* explain what action you would like to be taken to resolve the issue. Be reasonable and realistic
 about your expectations.
* If the issue involves another student at the school, do not approach them or their
 parents/guardians directly.
* understand the school could refer you to a more appropriate person, or agency.

STEP 2

Raising an issue with the principal/assistant principal

If you still have a concern after talking to the child’s teacher you may choose to meet with the assistant principal or principal of the school.

* Make an appointment with the assistant principal or principal and follow the same procedures
 as you did with the teacher.

Should the issue remain unresolved following consultation with the assistant principal/principal, the parents/guardians concerned should refer the matter to CLV who will assist you and the school to resolve the issue. The procedure for referring complaints to CLV is outlined below.

STEP 3

Raising a complaint in writing with Community Languages Victoria (CLV)

If the issue cannot be resolved by the parents/guardians and the community language school teacher and/or assistant principal/principal, the parents/guardians may make a formal complaint to the Executive Director, CLV, by submitting the attached *Complaint Form*.

When attempting to resolve complaints, the relevant school and CLV can engage the services of the Dispute Settlement Centre Victoria, which provides a mediation service free of charge. Parents/guardians may also seek to have the services of the Dispute Settlement Centre Victoria engaged if dissatisfied with the manner in which the complaint was handled by CLV. Further information is available at: [http://www.disputes.vic.gov.au/](http://www.disputes.vic.gov.au/%20%20%20)

Any complaints about possible criminal behaviour and activity relating to a community languages school or the staff should be referred directly to the Victoria Police.

*CLV will take reasonable steps to destroy or permanently de-identify personal information if it is no longer needed for any purpose. Under the Public Record Act 1973, CLV is required to keep full and accurate records and implement a record disposal program. Destruction of personal information must be carried out using CLV’s disposal schedules.*

**COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS**

 PARENT/GUARDIAN COMPLAINT FORM

This form should only be used when all avenues to have your complaint resolved at your child’s community languages school as set out in **Step 1 and Step 2 of the Guidelines** have been exhausted, and you feel the issue/s is/are of such significance that you wish to register your complaint with Community Languages Victoria.

* 1. **PERSONAL DETAILS OF COMPLAINANT (Parent/Guardian)**

Title 

First Name Family Name 

Address 

Telephone/Mobile 

Email address: *(optional)*

* 1. **STUDENT DETAILS** *(who the complaint is about)*

First Name Family Name 

Year Level  Gender: Male  Female 

* 1. **COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOL DETAILS**

CLS School/Organisation Name 

Location of classes/ Campus



Principal’s name



Teacher/s name *(if applicable)*

**This complaint is related to:***(tick relevant box/es)*

 the administration of the CLS staff member other than the child’s teacher of the CLS

 the class teacher Other 

  **STEP 1**

**4. Have you taken the correct steps in resolving the issue before lodging this form?** *(tick relevant box/es and provide details in spaces provided below at no. 5.)*

Class Teacher Yes Principal Yes  Assistant Principal Yes 

 No  No  No 

**5. DETAILS OF MEETINGS** *(Attach additional information as required)*

Date/s of meeting/contact with the class teacher

Outcome of meeting/s



Date/s of meeting with Principal or Assistant Principal

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Outcome of meeting/s



**6. COMPLAINT DETAILS: Brief outline of the complaint
**

**7. How do you believe this issue could be resolved?**

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**Applicant’s signature……………………………………………………..**

**Date:…………………………………………………………………………**

**Send completed form to:** Mr Stefan Romaniw
Executive Director

Community Languages Victoria

Level 2, 189 Faraday Street, CARLTON, 2053

Tel 9349 2683

Email: stefan.romaniw@communitylanguages.org.au

Web: <http://www.communitylanguages.org.au/index.php>