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## Mindfulness Now / Central England College

### Compliments and Complaints

#### Policy and Procedure

##### 1 Our Aim

Mindfulness Now / Central England College is committed to providing a quality service and working in an open and accountable way that builds trust and respect. One of the ways in which we can continue to improve our service is by listening and responding to the views of those in our community, and in particular by responding positively to complaints, and by putting mistakes right.

Therefore, we aim to ensure that:

- making a compliment or complaint is as easy as possible
- we welcome compliments, feedback and suggestions
- we treat a complaint as a clear expression of dissatisfaction with our service which calls for an immediate response
- we deal with it promptly, politely and, when appropriate, confidentially
- we respond in the right way - for example, with an explanation, or an apology where we have got things wrong, or information on any action taken etc.
- we learn from complaints, use them to improve our service, and review annually our complaints policy and procedures

We recognise that many concerns will be raised informally, and dealt with quickly.

Our aims are to:

- resolve informal concerns quickly
- keep matters low-key



- enable mediation between the complainant and the individual to whom the complaint has been referred

This policy ensures that we welcome compliments and provide guidelines for dealing with complaints from members of the public about our services, facilities, staff and volunteers.

## **2. Definitions**

A compliment is an expression of satisfaction about the standard of service we provide.

A complaint is defined as any expression of dissatisfaction, however it is expressed. This would include complaints expressed face to face, via a phone call, in writing, via email or any other method. All staff should have sufficient knowledge to be able to identify an “expression of dissatisfaction” even when the word “complain” or “complaint” is not used.

## **3. Purpose**

We are always glad to hear from people who are satisfied with the services we offer. All compliments are recorded, and dealt with by the relevant recipient.

## **4. Complaints**

The formal complaints procedure is intended to ensure that all complaints are handled fairly, consistently and wherever possible resolved to the complainant's satisfaction.

## **5. Responsibilities**

Mindfulness Now / Central England College’s responsibility will be to:

- acknowledge the formal complaint in writing;
- respond within a stated period of time;
- deal reasonably and sensitively with the complaint; and
- take action where appropriate.

A complainant's responsibility is to:



- bring their complaint, in writing, to Mindfulness Now / Central England College's attention normally within 8 weeks of the issue arising
- raise concerns promptly and directly
- explain the problem as clearly and as fully as possible, including any action taken to date
- allow Mindfulness Now / Central England College a reasonable time to deal with the matter
- recognise that some circumstances may be beyond Mindfulness Now / Central England College's control.

## **6. Confidentiality:**

Except in exceptional circumstances, every attempt will be made to ensure that both the complainant and Mindfulness Now / Central England College maintain confidentiality. However, the circumstances giving rise to the complaint may be such that it may not be possible to maintain confidentiality (with each complaint judged on its own facts). Should this be the case, the situation will be explained to the complainant.

## **7. Complaints Procedure:**

Written records must be made by Mindfulness Now / Central England College at each stage of the procedure.

### **Stage 1**

In the first instance, Mindfulness Now / Central England College must establish the seriousness of the complaint. An informal approach is appropriate when it can be achieved. But if concerns cannot be satisfactorily resolved informally, then the formal complaints procedure should be followed.



## Stage 2

If the complaint cannot be resolved informally, the complainant should be advised that a formal complaint may be made and the following procedure should be explained to them.

- a) A formal complaint can be made either verbally or in writing. If in writing the attached form should be used. If verbally, a record should be kept by a member of the Mindfulness Now / Central England College team.
- b) In all cases, the complaint must be passed on to the Principal.
- c) The Principal, depending on the nature of the complaint, must acknowledge the complaint
- d) The Principal will investigate the complaint. Any conclusions reached should be discussed with the person to whom the complaint is directed.
- e) The person making the complaint will receive a response based on the investigation within four weeks of the complaint being received. If this is not possible then a letter must be sent explaining why.



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**Mindfulness Now / Central England College  
COMPLAINTS FORM**

You may use this form to make a suggestion or to make a complaint about Mindfulness Now / Central England College.

We would like you to return this form as soon as possible.

Your Name:

Address:

Telephone:

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Date of incident:

Approximate time of incident:

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Suggestion / Complaint

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What action would you like to be taken?

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What times are convenient for you to have an appointment to discuss this?