

SG.08 STUDENT CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

APPROVED BY	EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM	VERSION	2020 (v2)
REVIEW STAKEHOLDERS	▪ TE TAIURUNGI/PRINCIPAL	Last reviewed	2016
	▪ HEADS OF SCHOOL	Published	Feb 2022
	▪ TEAM LEADER ADMINISTRATION	Review period	3 YEARS
	▪ ACADEMIC DEAN	Next review	2023
PURPOSE	To establish procedures for the resolution of concerns or complaints between individuals or groups of students, with staff or the Institute administration. If the latter is not possible, it ensures that procedures are in place to assist the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) made up of Te Taiurungi/Principal, Heads of School (Teacher Education and Social Practice) and Academic Dean to make a final decision on resolution of the concern or complaint.		

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PRINCIPLES

Bethlehem Tertiary Institute will apply the following principles:

- **Biblical principles:** Wherever possible complaints should be resolved at the level at which they occurred. Escalation of a complaint should only occur when either a complaint remains unresolved or is of a serious nature.
- **Impartiality:** All complaints must be dealt with in a manner that is equitable and fair to all parties.
- **Promptness:** Any action to be taken with regard to a student complaint must be taken as soon as practicable after the event.
- **Investigation:** Where an investigation is necessary it will be carried out by a senior member of staff from a different programme or service group from the one in which the complaint is located.
- **Communication:** All parties to the complaint must be kept informed of the progress and outcome.
- **Non punitive:** The aim of any outcome to the complaint is to prevent re-occurrence, and to provide a fair resolution, not to take punitive measures.
- **Protection of parties:** The process must ensure the protection of the rights of all parties involved both during and after the process.

POLICY

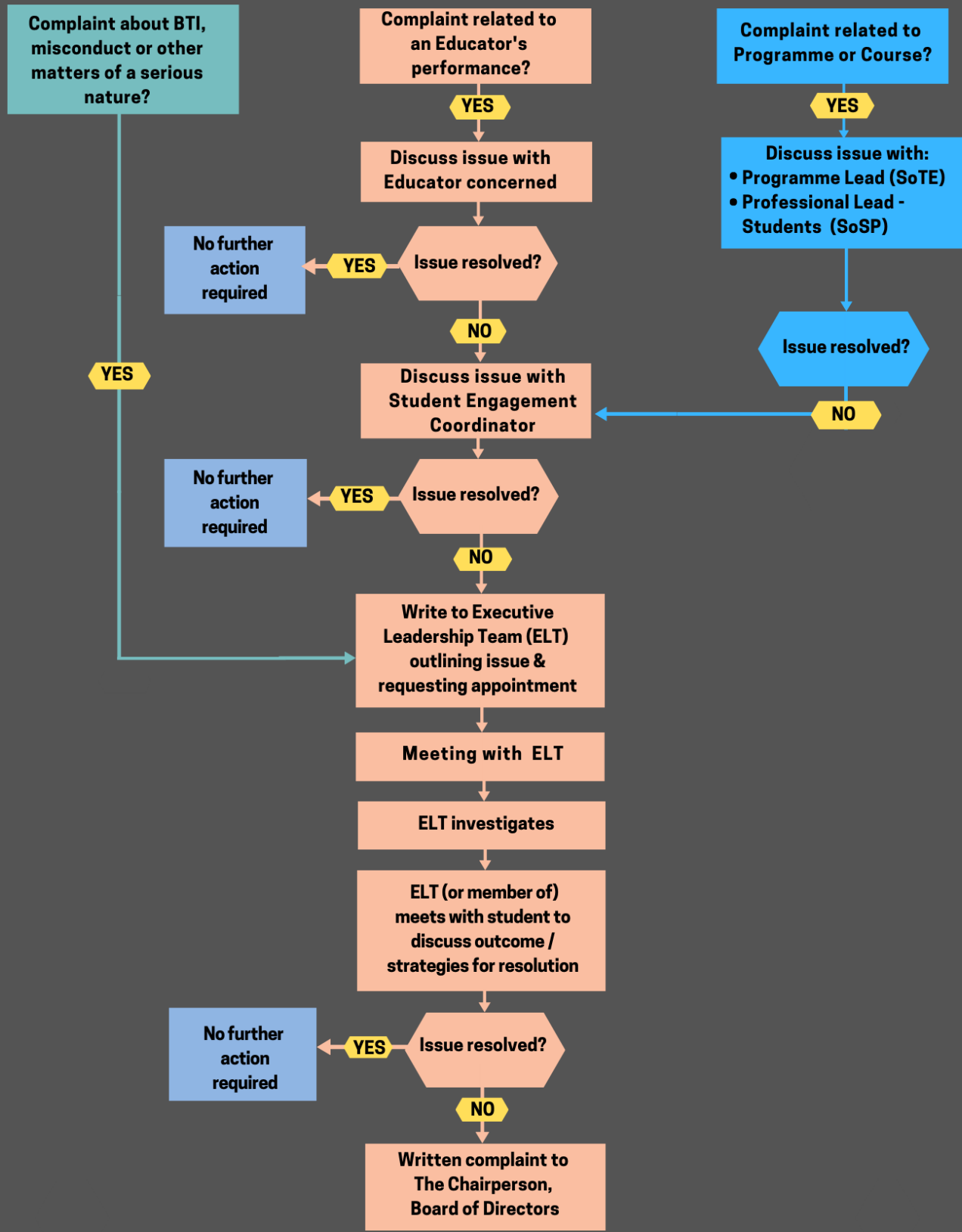
- 1 All concerns and complaints shall be dealt with in a manner that is respectful and likely to gain early resolution.
- 2 In accordance with the principles of Matthew 18, students must make every attempt to resolve concerns at the earliest opportunity with those most directly involved within the programme or service group in which it originated, unless it is deemed by the complainant or support person to be of a particularly serious nature. In such cases the complainant can write to the Student Engagement Coordinator/International Coordinator outlining the issue and requesting an appointment.
- 3 All concerns or complaints must be raised within 30 days of the event causing the concern or complaint, or from the time that the event came to the notice of the complainant.
- 4 In any meetings or discussions, complainants have the right to a support person.
- 5 In the event of a complainant feeling that initial efforts to resolve a disagreement are unsuccessful, the complainant may make written approach to the ELT.
- 6 A complaint forwarded in writing to the ELT will be fully investigated before a decision is made and resolution sought. The decision of the ELT will be communicated in writing.
- 7 Where a complaint relates to harassment, the relevant policy should be applied.
- 8 In the case of 'distance' students (including offshore students), then the use of either telephone or a digital platform (Skype, Zoom, Collaborate or Facetime) contact could replace face-to-face meetings.
- 9 Where a complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the ELT, they may appeal in writing to the Chairperson, BTI Board of Directors.
- 10 If students have been through the above internal complaints process and are dissatisfied with the outcome, they may contact:
 - a. **Tertiary Education Dispute Resolution** which is the appointed operator of the Education (Domestic Tertiary Student Contract Dispute Resolution Scheme (DRS), which was set up to resolve financial and contractual disputes for domestic tertiary learners.

For more information about Tertiary Education Dispute Resolution: <https://tedr.org.nz/>
 - b. **iStudent Complaints** which is appointed operator of the International Student Contract Dispute Resolution Scheme (DRS), which was set up to resolve financial and contractual disputes for international learners.

For more information about iStudent Complaints: <http://www.istudent.org.nz/>
 - c. **New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)**. If students are not satisfied with how BTI has responded to their formal complaint, they can escalate their complaint to NZQA. To make a formal complaint to NZQA:
 - i. Download and complete the [formal complaint form](#) (PDF, 145KB).
 - ii. Collect supporting evidence (e.g. emails, letters, screen shots).
 - iii. Email a scan of completed form, along with scans of any supporting evidence, to risk@nzqa.govt.nz or send completed complaint form with your supporting evidence, to:
Risk Management, NZQA
PO Box 160
Wellington 6140

For more information on the complaints process, contact NZQA at risk@nzqa.govt.nz or 0800 697 296 or visit their website at: <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/make-a-complaint/make-a-complaint-about-a-provider/how-to-make-a-complaint/>

STUDENT CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS FLOWCHART



If you have been through the above process, and dissatisfied with the outcome, you may contact:

Domestic Students
 Tertiary Education Dispute Resolution (<https://tedr.org.nz/>) is the appointed operator of the Education (Domestic Tertiary Student Contract Dispute Resolution Scheme (DRS), which was set up to resolve financial and contractual disputes for domestic tertiary learners.

International Students
 iStudent Complaints (<http://www.istudent.org.nz/>) is the appointed operator of the International Student Contract Dispute Resolution Scheme (DRS), which was set up to resolve financial and contractual disputes for international learners.

NZQA - To make a formal complaint about an education provider:
 1. Download and complete the formal complaint form <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/About-us/Complaints-Form.pdf>
 2. Collect your supporting evidence
 3. Email a scan of your completed form, along with any supporting evidence, to risk@nzqa.govt.nz or send to: Risk Management, NZQA, P O Box 160, Wellington 6140.
 For more information, contact NZQA at risk@nzqa.govt.nz or 0800 697 296