



Exclusion and Suspension of Pupils Policy

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Approved on:	
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Role:	HoPDBaA
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Exclusion/Suspension of Pupils Policy

Background

This policy is based on the following legislation, which outline schools' powers to exclude/suspend pupils:

- Section 52 of the [Education Act 2002](#), as amended by the [Education Act 2011](#)
- [The School Discipline \(Pupil Exclusions and Reviews\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
- Sections 64-68 of the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#)

In addition, the policy is based on:

- Part 7, chapter 2 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#), which looks at parental responsibility for excluded pupils

This policy deals with the policy and practice which informs the use of exclusion and suspension at Smith's Wood Primary Academy. It is underpinned by the shared commitment of all members of the school community to achieve two important aims:

1. The first is to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community, and to maintain an appropriate education environment in which all can learn and succeed;
2. The second is to realise the aim of reducing the need to use exclusion/suspension as a sanction. (Also see Behaviour Policy)

Introduction

The decision to exclude/suspend a pupil will be taken in the following circumstances:

- (a) In response to a serious breach of the school's Behaviour Policy
- (b) If allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of other persons or the pupil him/herself in the school.

Exclusion/Suspension is an extreme sanction and is only administered by the Principal. Exclusion/Suspension, whether for a fixed term or permanent may be used for any of the following, all of which constitute examples of unacceptable conduct, and are infringements of the school's Behaviour Policy:

- Verbal abuse to staff and others
- Verbal abuse to pupils
- Physical abuse to/attack on staff
- Physical abuse to/attack on pupils
- Indecent behaviour
- Damage to property
- Misuse of illegal drugs
- Misuse of other substances
- Theft
- Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff
- Sexual abuse or assault
- Supplying an illegal drug
- Carrying an offensive weapon
- Arson
- Persistent disruptive behaviour

This is not an exhaustive list and there may be other situations where the Principal makes the judgement that exclusion or suspension is an appropriate sanction.

At times the Principal will decide not to use the extreme sanction of an exclusion or suspension but will decide that a support plan should be drawn up to try avoid the sanction of an exclusion or suspension in the future. This might be accompanied by an internal exclusion.

Suspension procedure

Most suspensions are of a fixed term nature and are of short duration (usually between one and three days).

The DfE regulations allow the Principal to suspend a pupil for one or more fixed periods not exceeding a total of 45 school days in any one school year.

The Governors have established arrangements to review promptly all permanent exclusions from the school and all fixed term suspension that would lead to a pupil being suspended for more than 15 days in a school term or missing a public examination (ie SATs).

The Governors have established arrangements to review fixed term suspension which would lead to a pupil being suspended for more than five days but not more than 15 days in a school term where a parent has expressed a wish to make representations.

Following suspension parents are contacted immediately where possible. A letter will be sent by post giving details of the suspension and the date the suspension ends. Parents have a right to make representations to the Governing Body and the Local Authority as directed in the letter.

A return to school meeting will be held following the expiry of the fixed term suspension and this will involve a member of the Senior Management Team.

During the course of a fixed term suspension where the pupil is to be at home, parents are advised that the pupil is not allowed on the school premises, and that daytime supervision is their responsibility as parents/guardians.

Records relating to suspensions will be stored confidentially.

Permanent Exclusion

The decision to exclude a pupil permanently is a serious one. There are two main types of situation in which permanent exclusion may be considered:

1. The first is a final, formal step in a concerted process for dealing with disciplinary offences following the use of a wide range of other strategies, which have been used without success. It is an acknowledgement that all available strategies have been exhausted and is used as a last resort. This would include persistent and defiant misbehaviour including bullying (which would include racist or homophobic bullying) or repeated possession and/or use of an illegal drug on school premises.
2. The second is where there are exceptional circumstances and it is not appropriate to implement other strategies and where it could be appropriate to permanently exclude a pupil for a first or „one off“ offence. These might include:
 - Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff
 - Sexual abuse or assault
 - Supplying an illegal drug
 - Carrying an Offensive Weapon (Offensive weapons are defined in the Prevention of Crime Act 1993 as “any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person; or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him”).
 - Arson
 - Behaviour which poses a significant risk to the child’s own safety.

The school will involve the police for any relevant offences. These instances are not exhaustive but indicate the

severity of such offences and the fact that such behaviour seriously affects the discipline and wellbeing of the school.

General factors the school considers before making a decision to exclude

Exclusion will not be imposed instantly unless there is an immediate threat to the safety of others in the school or the pupil concerned. Before deciding whether to exclude a pupil either permanently or for a fixed period the Principal will:

- Ensure appropriate investigations have been carried out.
- Explore the wider context, taking into consideration how much the incident may have been Provoked.).
- Consider all the evidence available to support the allegations taking into account the Behaviour Policy, Equal Opportunity and Race Equality Policies
Consider an "internal exclusion" at another school.
- Explore a placement in alternative provision (eg PRU)
- Explore the possibility of a managed move to another school.