



Exclusions Policy

Autumn Term 2017

Review Date – Autumn Term 2018

Rationale

This policy, which should be read alongside our Behaviour Policy, deals with the practice which informs the Academy's use of exclusion. 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 educational environment in which all can learn and succeed;
- 2) The second is to realise the aim of reducing the need to use exclusion as a sanction.

Introduction

The decision to exclude a student will be taken in the following circumstances: -

- (a) In response to a serious breach of the School's Behaviour Policy;
- (b) If allowing the student to remain in School would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or others in the School.

Exclusion is an extreme sanction and is only administered by the Principal

Exclusion, whether 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 Academy's Behaviour Policy taken from our consequences ladder:

- Bullying.
- Fighting.
- Violent behaviour
- Racism.
- Homophobic comments
- Vandalism.
- Stealing.
- Threatening behaviour.
- Deliberately throwing objects or furniture.
- Absconding.

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

Exclusion procedure

Our exclusions will usually be of a fixed term nature and will be of short duration (usually between one and three days).

The DfE regulations allow the Principal to exclude a student for one or more fixed periods not exceeding 45 school days in any one school year.

The Local Governing Body will review promptly all fixed term exclusions that would lead to a student being excluded for over 15 days in a school term or missing a public examination.

A return to school meeting will be held following the expiry of the fixed term exclusion and this will involve the Principal and other staff where appropriate.

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

The school will consider police involvement for offences such as those involving offensive weapons* or drugs.

** Offensive weapons are defined in the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 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.”*

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 student concerned. Before deciding whether to exclude a student for a fixed period the Principal will:

- Ensure appropriate investigations have been carried out.
- Consider all the evidence available to support the allegations taking into account the Behaviour Policy, Equal Opportunity and Race Equality Policies.
- Allow the student to give her/his version of events if appropriate.
- Check whether the incident may have been provoked for example by bullying or by racial or sexual harassment.

If the Principal is satisfied that on the balance of probabilities the student did what he or she is alleged to have done, exclusion will be the outcome.

Exercise of discretion

In reaching a decision, the Principal will always look at each case on its own merits.

a) the gravity of the incident, or series of incidents, and whether it constitutes a serious breach of the school’s Behaviour Policy and

b) the effect that the student remaining in the school would have on the education and welfare of other students and staff.

Behaviour Outside School

Pupils' behaviour outside school on school "business" for example school trips and journeys, away school sports fixtures or learning in other settings is subject to the school's Behaviour Policy. Bad behaviour in these circumstances will be dealt with as if it had taken place in school. For behaviour outside school but not on school business this policy will still have effect if there is a clear link between that behaviour and maintaining good behaviour and discipline among the student body as a whole. If students' behaviour in the immediate vicinity of the school or on a journey to and from school is poor and meets the school criteria for exclusion then the Principal may decide to exclude.