

Exclusion Policy



At St Paul's C.E Primary School we consistently look for positive behaviours, we respond to children with calmness and non-judgemental kindness and have clear shared boundaries. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our staff and pupils so they can teach and learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We aim to include, not exclude, and we approach all challenging behaviour in a supportive and positive way. We recognise that such behaviour can sometimes be symptomatic of a real, deeper need for our support and understanding. All children can go through times of inappropriate behaviour, and we strive to never "give up" easily on a child as we recognise that each person has a unique contribution to make to school life and we want to support them to achieve this

We will monitor patterns of challenging behaviour in pupils. Where patterns emerge, we will systematically intervene, drawing up an action plan with the child, parent and teacher. It is the responsibility of the teacher, parent and child to ensure the action plan is followed.

Reasons for exclusion:

- Serious breach of the school's rules or policies
- Serious risk of harm to the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school

This can either be a very serious incident or the repetition of serious incidents.

Any exclusion will be at the decision of the Headteacher, usually in consultation with other members of the senior leadership team.

Types of Exclusion:

Fixed term exclusion

A fixed term exclusion is when a child is excluded from school and must remain home for a fixed amount of time (usually between 1-5 days). This should be for the shortest time necessary to ensure minimal disruption to the child's education, whilst mindful of the seriousness of the breach of policy.

During the course of a fixed term exclusion 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.

Permanent Exclusion

A permanent exclusion is when a child is permanently excluded from school and not allowed to return. This is a very serious decision and the Headteacher will consult with senior leaders and Chair of the Governing Body as soon as possible in such a case. *Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England* guidance will be followed (the guidance is also followed by Voluntary Aided Schools).

Reasons for Exclusion

A decision to exclude a pupil, either for a fixed period or permanently is seen as a last resort by the school. The physical and emotional health of our children and staff is our primary concern, and we therefore accept, that in some serious situations, exclusion may be necessary, if all other strategies have been exhausted.

The decision to exclude will usually follow a range of strategies and be seen as a last resort, or it will be in response to a very serious breach of school rules and policies or a disciplinary offence such as:

- Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff
- Possession or use of an illegal drug on school premises
- Persistent bullying
- Persistent prejudice based harassment or hatred based acts

Exclusion may be the result of persistently poor behaviour or a serious single incident.

Persistent or cumulative problems

Fixed term exclusion may be used in response to a persistent poor behaviour, which breaches school rules and policies. In the most serious cases where the problem persists and there is no improvement, a permanent exclusion may be necessary.

These would be imposed only when the school had already offered and implemented a range of support and management strategies. These could be joint action plans with parents, child and school.

The length of an exclusion will depend upon a number of factors, such as the severity of the incident, and the likely impact on the child's learning and ability to succeed on returning to school. Such decisions will be made in the best interests of

the child, whilst also mindful of the need to maintain order and reinforce the rules and expectations of the school in a clear and consistent way.

Single Incident

Fixed term exclusion may be used in response to a very serious breach of school rules and policies or a disciplinary offence. In the most serious cases where the problem persists and there is no improvement, a permanent exclusion may be necessary.

In such cases, the Headteacher or a designated senior leader will investigate the incident and consider all evidence to support the allegation, taking account of the schools policies. The pupil will be encouraged to give his/her version of events and the Headteacher will check whether the incident may have been provoked.

The Governing Body will be informed of all exclusions on a termly basis, and additional consultation may also take place about key incidents with the Chair of Governors.

The decision to exclude

If the Headteacher decides to exclude a pupil, he/she will:

- Ensure that there is sufficient recorded evidence to support the decision
- Explain the decision to the pupil, if the pupil is in the state of mind to listen to the decision
- Facilitate contact with the parents and explain the decision
- Send a letter to the parents confirming the reasons for the exclusion, whether it is a permanent or temporary exclusion, the length of the exclusion and any terms or conditions agreed for the pupils return
- In cases of more than a day's exclusion, ensure that appropriate work is set and that arrangements are in place for it to be marked
- Plan how to address the pupil's needs and integration back into their class on his/her return
- Plan a meeting with parents and pupil on his/her return to be conducted by a suitable senior member of staff

Re-integration

After fixed-term exclusion the pupil and parent will be requested to attend a reintegration meeting with a senior member of staff. At this meeting, the behaviour leading to exclusion will be discussed and targets will be set for improvement. Support around behaviour will also be discussed.

Work Set

When a pupil is excluded for more than one day, work should be set by the school within a reasonable time-scale and this should be returned to the school when the exclusion is over. If a child is excluded at the end of a school day, then it may not be possible to arrange for work to be set until the following morning.

Behaviour outside school

Pupils behaviour outside school e.g. on school trips, at sports events, is subject to the school's behaviour policy. Unacceptable behaviour in such circumstances will be dealt with as if it had taken place in school.

Pupils with special educational needs

The school must take account of any special educational needs when considering whether or not to exclude a pupil. The Headteacher should ensure that reasonable steps have been taken by the school to respond to a pupil's needs so the pupil is not treated less favourably for reasons related to the disability or need.

Procedure for appeal

If parents wish to appeal the decision to exclude, the matter will be referred to the Governing Body and handled through the school and LA appeal procedure.

Date: January 2022

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