



**Policy:** Exclusion

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**Date of Approval:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Approved By:** Academy Council

**Review Date:** February 2021

# Exclusions Policy

## 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 – 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 – To realise the aim of reducing the need to use exclusion as a sanction

## Introduction

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

- In response to a serious breach of the Academy's Behaviour Policy
- In response to persistent breaches of the Academy's Behaviour Policy
- If allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in school (children, staff and visitors)

Exclusion is an extreme sanction and is only administered by the Principal, or an Assistant Principal in the Principal's absence.

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 'Sanctions/Consequences for Unacceptable Behaviour Grid' (see Behaviour Policy Appendix 1):

- Swearing/use of abusive language to other child or adult including racism
- Violence and deliberate physical abuse of another child or adult
- Defiance including rude behaviour, answering back, refusing to follow an instruction
- Causing disruption to class through inappropriate behaviour/actions
- Bullying
- "Winding up"/provocative behaviour e.g. name calling
- Vandalism to school or other people's property

This is not an exhaustive list and there may be other situations where the Principal makes the judgement 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 pupil for one or more fixed periods not exceeding 45 school days in any one academic year.

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

A reintegration to school meeting will be held following the expiry of the fixed term exclusion. This will involve the Principal and other staff where appropriate, parents/carers and the pupil.

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/carers.

The Academy 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/her for such use by him/her.”*

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 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 pupil to share his/her version of events if appropriate
- Check whether the incident may have been provoked, for example by bullying or by racial harassment

If the Principal is satisfied that on the balance of probabilities the pupil 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.

1. The gravity of the incident, or series of incidents, and whether it constitutes a serious breach or persistent breach of the Academy’s Behaviour Policy and
2. The effect that the student remaining in the school would have on the education and welfare of other pupils and staff.

### **Behaviour Outside School**

Pupil’s 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 Academy’s Behaviour Policy.

Inappropriate 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 pupils' behaviour in the immediate vicinity of the school or on a journey to or from school is poor and meets the school criteria for exclusion, then the Principal may decide to exclude.

Sarah Wilson – February 2020