



## **Exclusion Policy**

This policy is promoted and implemented throughout the school and nursery and is made available to parents. It is implemented in conjunction with the Behaviour Management Policy and Procedure and is reviewed annually by the Development Forum in order to assess its implementation and effectiveness.

Good discipline is essential to ensure that all young children/pupils can benefit from the opportunities provided by an early years and primary education. Our behaviour policy outlines expectations, procedures and key strategies for promoting good behaviour. Exclusion would only be used as a last resort, in response to a serious breach, or persistent breaches, of the school's behaviour policy; and where allowing the child/pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the child/ pupil or others in the school.

This policy is referenced to guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

### **Purpose of this policy**

This policy is designed to briefly outline the school's approach to and use of exclusions.

### **Principles**

Exclusion is a sanction used only in cases deemed as extremely serious breaches of our Behaviour Policy.

A child/pupil may be at risk of exclusion from for:

- Verbal or physical assault of another child/pupil or adult
- Persistent and repetitive disruption of others learning
- Extreme misbehaviour which is deemed outside the remit of the normal range of behaviour management strategies and sanctions.

A Fixed Term or Permanent Exclusion can only be authorised by the Headteacher in consultation with the Directors of the company. As stated in our behaviour policy, parents are fully involved at all stages, and prior to a decision to exclude a child, the Headteacher would call a meeting with parents to discuss the use of such a sanction.

### **Types of Exclusion**

There are two types of exclusion: Fixed Period and Permanent.

#### **Fixed Period Exclusion:**

These exclusions are usually for a short period and the child/pupil returns after the exclusion period has expired.

**Permanent Exclusion:** This means the pupil cannot return to the school and the contract with the parents would be terminated. If a pupil is permanently excluded we would inform the Local Education Authority (LEA) as they would have the responsibility to provide other suitable education.

#### **The Decision to Exclude**

**Fixed Term Exclusion** - Exclusions will be used sparingly and only if there are serious breaches of the schools behaviour policy or civil law; or if allowing the child/pupil to remain in school would be seriously detrimental to the education or welfare of the pupil or others.

**Permanent Exclusion** - The Headteacher and Directors hold joint responsibility for taking the decision to permanently exclude a child/pupil. Permanent exclusion is used as a last resort, when all other reasonable steps, as outlined in the Behaviour Management Policy have been taken.

The usual reason for exclusion would be a continuing pattern of incidents that breach the school's behaviour policy, however, a child/pupil may, in extreme cases, be permanently excluded following a serious 'one off' breach of the school's behaviour policy. At Ashbridge, this could apply in the event of serious or threatened violence against another child/pupil or member of staff or malicious accusations against another child or member of staff.

The decision to exclude a pupil must be reasonable and fair. Care is taken not to discriminate against pupils on the basis of protected characteristics, such as disability or race.

### **Procedures for Exclusion**

Following the decision to exclude a pupil, the Headteacher must:

- Inform the child's parents or guardians their child has been excluded, the type and length of the exclusion and the reasons for it
- Inform the Local Authority the same day of the exclusion followed up by more detailed information within the following four days.

### **Notification of an Exclusion and Procedure**

- Parents are informed of the decision to exclude a child/pupil and the reason for the exclusion prior to such a sanction being imposed.
- A written confirmation of the reason(s) for the exclusion will be issued also.
- At this stage, the process of appeal is as Stage 3 of the Complaints Policy
- The child/pupil, who is to be excluded, either on a fixed term or permanent basis, will have also been included in earlier discussions and will have the reason for exclusion explained to them by the Headteacher so that they understand the nature of their misbehaviour and the reason for the imposition of the sanction.
- If a fixed term exclusion is in place, the school will also work to put in place a programme for the child/pupil on return to school. This will include input from staff at the school, parents, if appropriate, and any other appropriate bodies or specialists such as educational psychologists. It is hoped that in most cases following a fixed term exclusion, the child would be able to return to school and that further input would promote in them a more positive attitude and a subsequent improvement in behaviour.
- A child/pupil returning from a Fixed Term Exclusion would be required to attend one or more reintegration meetings accompanied by a parent. These meetings seek to establish ways in which behaviour is to be modified to acceptable standards in partnership between the child/ parent and school.
- Should it be decided for whatever reason that the matter needs to be put in the hands of another agency i.e. the incident leads to the discovery that there is a child protection issue, the school will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with that agency following local procedures. (See also the company Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.)