

Exclusions policy

Catton Grove Primary School



Approved by: Darren Woodward

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1. Aims

Our school aims to ensure that:

- The exclusions process is applied fairly and consistently
- The exclusions process is understood by governors, staff, parents and pupils
- Pupils in school are safe and happy
- Pupils do not become NEET (not in education, employment or training)

2. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy is based on statutory guidance from the Department for Education: Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units (PRUs) in England.

It is based on the following legislation, which outline schools' powers to exclude 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
 - Section 579 of the Education Act 1996, which defines 'school day'
 - The Education (Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended by The Education (Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014
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3. The decision to exclude

Only the headteacher, or acting headteacher, can exclude a pupil from school. A permanent exclusion will be taken as a last resort.

Our school is aware that off-rolling is unlawful. Ofsted defines off-rolling as:

“...the practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without a formal, permanent exclusion or by encouraging a parent to remove their child from the school roll, when the removal is primarily in the interests of the school rather than in the best interests of the pupil.”

We are committed to following all statutory exclusions procedures to ensure that every child receives an education in a safe and caring environment.

A decision to exclude a pupil will be taken only:

- In response to serious or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, **and**
- If allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others

Before deciding whether to exclude a pupil, either permanently or for a fixed period, the headteacher/ deputy Headteacher will:

- Consider all the relevant facts and evidence, including whether the incident(s) leading to the exclusion were provoked
- Allow the pupil to give their version of events
- Consider if the pupil has special educational needs (SEN)

4. Definition

For the purposes of exclusions, school day is defined as any day on which there is a school session. Therefore, INSET or staff training days do not count as a school day.

5. Roles and responsibilities

5.1 The headteacher

Informing parents

The headteacher/deputy headteacher will immediately provide the following information, in writing, to the parents of an excluded pupil:

- The reason(s) for the exclusion
- The length of a fixed-term exclusion or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent
- Information about parents' right to make representations about the exclusion to the governing board and how the pupil may be involved in this
- Where there is a legal requirement for the governing board to meet to consider the reinstatement of a pupil, and that parents have a right to attend a meeting, be represented at a meeting (at their own expense) and to bring a friend

The headteacher will also notify parents by the end of the afternoon session on the day their child is excluded that for the first 5 school days of an exclusion, or until the start date of any alternative provision where this is earlier, parents are legally required to ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours without a good reason. Parents may be given a fixed penalty notice or prosecuted if they fail to do this.

Informing the governing board and local authority

The headteacher will immediately notify the governing board and the local authority (LA) of:

- A permanent exclusion, including when a fixed-period exclusion is made permanent
- Exclusions which would result in the pupil being excluded for more than 5 school days (or more than 10 lunchtimes) in a term
- Exclusions which would result in the pupil missing a public examination

For a permanent exclusion, if the pupil lives outside the LA in which the school is located, the headteacher will also immediately inform the pupil's 'home authority' of the exclusion and the reason(s) for it without delay.

For all other exclusions, the headteacher will notify the governing board and LA once a term.

5.2 The governing board

Responsibilities regarding exclusions is delegated to a Governor panel consisting of at least 3 governors.

The Governor panel has a duty to consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil (see section 6).

The governing board has a duty to consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil (see section 6)

Within 14 days of receipt of a request, the governing board will provide the secretary of state and the LA with information about any exclusions in the last 12 months.

For a fixed-period exclusion of more than 5 school days, the governing board will arrange suitable full-time education for the pupil. This provision will begin no later than the sixth day of the exclusion.

5.3 The LA

For permanent exclusions, the LA is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education to begin no later than the sixth day of the exclusion.

6. Considering the reinstatement of a pupil

The governing board will consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil within 15 school days of receiving the notice of the exclusion if:

The exclusion is permanent

It is a fixed-term exclusion which would bring the pupil's total number of school days of exclusion to more than 15 in a term

It would result in a pupil missing a public examination

If requested to do so by parents, the governing board will consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil within 50 school days of receiving notice of the exclusion if the pupil would be excluded from school for more than 5 school days, but less than 15, in a single term.

Where an exclusion would result in a pupil missing a public examination, the governing board will consider the reinstatement of the pupil before the date of the examination. If this is not practicable, the chair of the governing board (or the vice-chair where the chair is unable to make this consideration) will consider the exclusion independently and decide whether or not to reinstate the pupil.

The governing board can either:

- Decline to reinstate the pupil, or
- Direct the reinstatement of the pupil immediately, or on a particular date

In reaching a decision, the governing board will consider whether the exclusion was lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair and whether the headteacher followed their legal duties. They will decide whether or not a fact is true 'on the balance of probabilities', which differs from the criminal standard of 'beyond reasonable doubt', as well as any evidence that was presented in relation to the decision to exclude.

Minutes will be taken of the meeting, and a record of evidence considered kept. The outcome will also be recorded on the pupil's educational record.

The governing board will notify, in writing, the headteacher, parents and the LA of its decision, along with reasons for its decision, without delay.

Where an exclusion is permanent, the governing board's decision will also include the following:

- The fact that it is permanent
- Notice of parents' right to ask for the decision to be reviewed by an independent review panel, and:
 - The date by which an application for an independent review must be made
 - The name and address to whom an application for a review should be submitted
 - That any application should set out the grounds on which it is being made and that, where appropriate, reference to how the pupil's SEN are considered to be relevant to the exclusion
 - That, regardless of whether the excluded pupil has recognised SEN, parents have a right to require the LA to appoint an SEN expert to attend the review
 - Details of the role of the SEN expert and that there would be no cost to parents for this appointment
 - That parents must make clear if they wish for an SEN expert to be appointed in any application for a review
 - That parents may, at their own expense, appoint someone to make written and/or oral representations to the panel, and parents may also bring a friend to the review
- That if parents believe that the exclusion has occurred as a result of discrimination, they may make a claim under the Equality Act 2010 to the first-tier tribunal (special educational needs and disability), in the case of disability discrimination, or the county court, in the case of other forms of discrimination. A claim of discrimination made under these routes should be lodged within 6 months of the date on which the discrimination is alleged to have taken place

7. An independent review

If parents apply for an independent review, the LA will arrange for an independent panel to review the decision of the governing board not to reinstate a permanently excluded pupil.

Applications for an independent review must be made within 15 school days of notice being given to the parents by the governing board of its decision to not reinstate a pupil.

A panel of 3 or 5 members will be constituted with representatives from each of the categories below. Where a 5-member panel is constituted, 2 members will come from the school governors category and 2 members will come from the headteacher category.

- A lay member to chair the panel who has not worked in any school in a paid capacity, disregarding any experience as a school governor or volunteer
- School governors who have served as a governor for at least 12 consecutive months in the last 5 years, provided they have not been teachers or headteachers during this time
- Headteachers or individuals who have been a headteacher within the last 5 years

A person may not serve as a member of a review panel if they:

- Are a member of the LA, or governing board of the excluding school
- Are the headteacher of the excluding school, or have held this position in the last 5 years
- Are an employee of the LA, or the governing board, of the excluding school (unless they are employed as a headteacher at another school)
- Have, or at any time have had, any connection with the LA, school, governing board, parents or pupil, or the incident leading to the exclusion, which might reasonably be taken to raise doubts about their impartiality
- Have not had the required training within the last 2 years (see appendix 1 for what training must cover)

A clerk will be appointed to the panel.

The independent panel will decide one of the following:

- Uphold the governing board's decision
- Recommend that the governing board reconsiders reinstatement
- Quash the governing board's decision and direct that they reconsider reinstatement (only when the decision is judged to be flawed)

The panel's decision can be decided by a majority vote. In the case of a tied decision, the chair has the casting vote.

8. School registers

A pupil's name will be removed from the school admissions register if:

- 15 school days have passed since the parents were notified of the exclusion panel's decision to not reinstate the pupil and no application has been made for an independent review panel, or
- The parents have stated in writing that they will not be applying for an independent review panel

Where an application for an independent review has been made, the governing board will wait until that review has concluded before removing a pupil's name from the register.

Where alternative provision has been made for an excluded pupil and they attend it, code B (education off-site) or code D (dual registration) will be used on the attendance register.

Where excluded pupils are not attending alternative provision, code E (absent) will be used.

9. Returning from a fixed-term exclusion

Following a fixed-term exclusion, a re-integration meeting will be held involving the pupil, parents, a member of senior staff and other staff, where appropriate.

The following measures may be implemented when a pupil returns from a fixed-term exclusion:

- Putting a pupil 'on report
- Agreeing a behaviour plan and carrying out a risk assessment

10. Monitoring arrangements

Assistant Head for Inclusion/ Deputy Head monitors the number of exclusions every term and reports back to the headteacher/governors. They also liaise with the local authority to ensure suitable full-time education for excluded pupils.

This policy will be reviewed by Claire Shenton (Deputy Headteacher) every year. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

11. Links with other policies

This exclusions policy is linked to our

- Behaviour policy
- SEN policy and information report

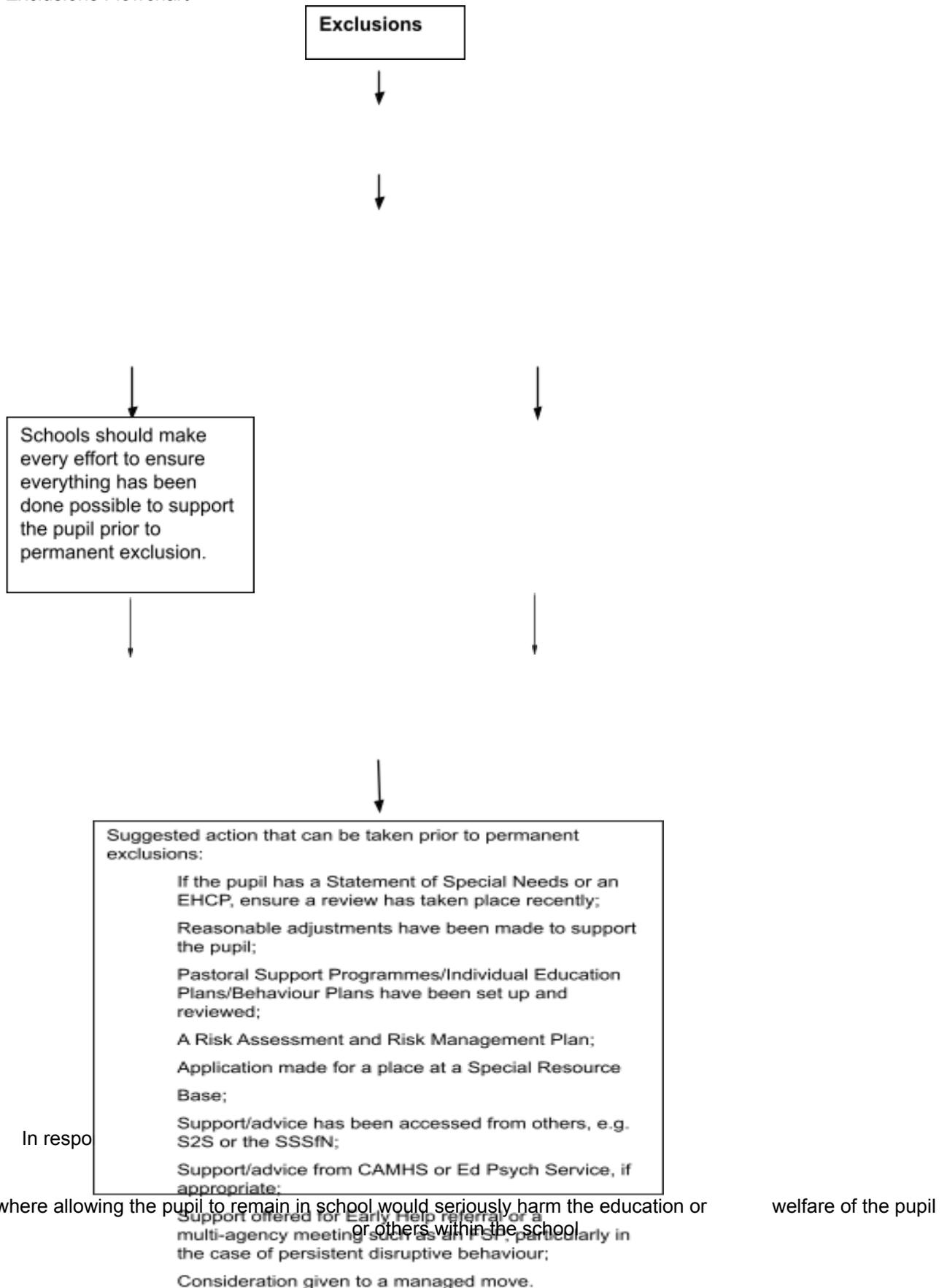
Appendix 1: Independent review panel training

The LA must ensure that all members of an independent review panel and clerks have received training within the 2 years prior to the date of the review.

Training must have covered:

- The requirements of the primary legislation, regulations and statutory guidance governing exclusions, which would include an understanding of how the principles applicable in an application for judicial review relate to the panel's decision making
- The need for the panel to observe procedural fairness and the rules of natural justice
- The role of the chair and the clerk of a review panel
- The duties of headteachers, governing boards and the panel under the Equality Act 2010
- The effect of section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (acts of public authorities unlawful if not compatible with certain human rights) and the need to act in a manner compatible with human rights protected by that Act

Appendix 2
Exclusions Flowchart



The school's Behaviour Policy should be robust and readily available to all pupils, parents and carers

It is unlawful to increase the severity of an exclusion for a non-disciplinary reason; because a pupil has additional needs; a disability; reasons such as attainment, ability, or action of the parents. If a fixed period is extended or made permanent the head teacher must write to the parent again giving reasons

When excluding, the wider principles of the school's legal duties should be considered and also any contributing factors: maybe the pupil has suffered a bereavement, has mental health issues, or was a subject of bullying.

The pupil's views should be captured all through the exclusion process

If pupil is excluded in a morning session the exclusion takes effect from that afternoon. Notice must be given to parents without delay;

and if compulsory school age, by the end of the afternoon session

If pupil is provided with alternative provision meeting all regulation requirements before the 6th day, they are marked on the school register under code B

(Education off site)

If any exclusion would result in the pupil missing public examination, the governing body should try to meet before the date of the examination.

Referral form to SSSfN

If pupil is excluded at the end of afternoon session exclusion takes effect from the next school day. Notice must be given to parents without delay, if compulsory school age by the end of the afternoon session

If pupil is not provided with alternative provision until the 6th day, they should be marked absent on the school register using code E (Exclusion)

Governing body and the LA must be informed **without delay** and the 'home' LA if different

Provision must be made by the LA from the 6th school day of exclusion

The governing body must convene a meeting within 15th school days to consider the exclusion. The governing body must invite the parent, pupil, head teacher and (if a maintained school) an LA Officer at a mutually agreed time. Academies can invite the LA Officer to attend. Supporting evidence should be circulated as far as possible at least 5 days before the meeting, including written statements, witness statements and capturing the excluded pupil's views and a list of attendees.

At maintained school (and academies with permission) the governing body may ask the LA Officer for advice and the LA Officer can ask questions and make representations, but the governing body must make its decision alone, asking the other parties to withdraw. Only the clerk may stay.

The governing body must inform the parent, the head teacher and the LA Officer of its decision in writing **without delay** stating the reasons. They must also state the last date for lodging an application for a review (this will be 15 school days after the date the letter is received by parents) and explain that the grounds for the review must be set out in writing, requesting a Special Education Needs expert if required. A copy of the letter should be placed on the pupil's school record, with copies of relevant papers and minutes kept in Governors' confidential files

If the governing body's decision is upheld, the pupil is removed from the admission attendance register only after the review process has been completed

It should only be in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school

Notify the parent **without delay** ideally by telephone, followed by a letter. Notice must be in writing and state all the required facts in the guidance

Head teacher or acting head decides to exclude permanently

If the parent makes an application for a review within the time limit, the review should be held within 15 days after the day on which the review is lodged. The review panel considers the case and has only three options: uphold the exclusion; recommend the governing body reconsider their decision; or quash the decision and direct that the governing body considers the exclusion again.