




St Paul with St Luke CoE Primary

## Exclusion Policy Version Control

To be reviewed May 2024

Version no	Amendments	Approval date
2	New more detailed version	May 2021  BENJAMIN ROACH

## Exclusion Policy

### Our Vision

*Jesus said: 'Love one another as I have loved you'. John 15:12*

*As we are loved, so we shall love.*

*We nurture all in our welcoming community.*

*We go above and beyond to help each other to flourish.*

The School Policy for Behaviour sets out clearly our aims and objectives and the code of conduct we expect from our pupils. All staff are in agreement with the Policy and implement it consistently so that pupils understand what is expected of them and know the boundaries of behaviour.

Through the Behaviour Policy, we aim to promote among pupils, self-discipline, a respect for authority, care and respect for others and an understanding that good behaviour is rewarded but there will be a consequence for poor or inappropriate behaviour.

However, if a pupil's behaviour continues to be disruptive or violent, in spite of applying all the measures in the Behaviour Policy, and undermines the quality of teaching and learning for other pupils, then procedures for the exclusion of the pupil will commence. A decision to exclude a pupil, either for a fixed period or permanently is seen as a last resort by the Governing Body of St Paul with St Luke Primary School - while always bearing in mind our duty of care to pupils and staff.

In dealing with incidents resulting in exclusion of a pupil, the Headteacher and Governing Body will follow the Guidelines for Exclusion by Tower Hamlets Education Authority, as set out in their document 'Pupil Exclusions - Guidelines for Headteachers'.

The school is responsible for communicating to pupils, parents and staff its expectations of standards of conduct. A range of policies and procedures are in place to promote good behaviour and appropriate conduct. The school will take account of any special educational needs when considering whether or not to exclude a pupil.

The Headteacher will ensure that reasonable steps have been taken by the school to respond to a pupil's disability so the pupil is not treated less favourably for reasons related to the disability.

**Reasonable steps** will include:

- Differentiation in the school's Behaviour Policy

- Developing strategies to support, improve or prevent the pupil's behaviour
- Requesting external help with the pupil
- Staff training
- Personalised behaviour management plans (Including Positive Handling Plans, Positive Behaviour Plans)
- Staff training

Where reasonable adjustments to policies and practices have been made to accommodate a pupil's needs and to avoid the necessity for exclusion as far as possible, exclusion may be justified if there is a material and substantial reason for it. A specific incident affecting order and discipline in the school may be such a reason. No exclusion will be initiated without having first exhausted other strategies or, in the case of a serious single incident, a thorough investigation.

**Reasons for exclusion include:**

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

**Fixed Term Exclusion** fixed term exclusion will be used for the shortest time necessary to secure benefits without adverse educational consequences. Exclusion for a period of time from half a day to 5 days for persistent or cumulative problems would be imposed only when the school had already offered and implemented a range of support and management strategies.

These could include:

- Discussion with the pupil
- Mentoring (adult support)
- Discussion with parents
- Setting targets and agreeing an individual behaviour plan
- Checking on any possible provocation
- Mediation
- Counselling
- Removal from class/s setting for a period of time
- Multi-agency support – for a pupil who demonstrates persistent disruptive behaviour, this may pick up unidentified SEND or seek to identify mental health or family problems

Exclusion will not be used for minor incidents (e.g. lateness, poor academic performance or breaches of uniform rules).

**Single Incident Temporary** exclusion may be used in response to a serious breach of school rules and policies or a disciplinary offence. In such cases the Headteacher will investigate

the incident thoroughly, usually via the senior leadership team, and will consider all evidence to support the allegation, taking account of the school's policies. The pupil will be encouraged, and if necessary be supported by familiar staff or parents, to give his/her version of events. A member of the senior leadership team will check to find out whether the incident may have been provoked, for example by bullying or harassment. If necessary the Headteacher will consult the chair of governors, but not a governor who may have a role in reviewing the Headteacher's decision.

### **Permanent Exclusion**

A permanent exclusion is a very serious decision and the Headteacher will consult with the chair of governors before enforcing it. As with a temporary exclusion, it will 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, such as:

- Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff
- Possession or use of an illegal drug on the school premises
- Carrying an offensive weapon
- Persistent bullying
- Racial harassment
- Persistent disruptive behaviour

### **The decision to exclude**

If the Headteacher decides to exclude a pupil she will

- take into consideration mental health issues, whether the child has suffered a bereavement, any serious bullying incidents that have impacted on the child's wellbeing
- Ensure that there is sufficient recorded evidence to support the decision
- Explain the decision to the pupil as appropriate – will give the pupil an opportunity to explain their case before making the decision to exclude
- Contact the parents, explain the decision and ask that the child be collected
- Send a letter to the parents confirming the reason for the exclusion, whether it is a permanent or temporary exclusion, the length of the exclusion and any terms or conditions agreed for the pupil's 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 on his/her return
- Plan a meeting with parents and pupil on his/her return
  - In the case of a pupil excluded for violent behaviour a risk assessment will be undertaken before they are re-admitted to school
  - Inform the Governing Body and the Local Authority

### **Behaviour outside School**

Pupils' behaviour outside school on school trips and sporting events is subject to the

school's behaviour policy. Poor behaviour in such circumstances will be dealt with as if it had taken place in school.

### **Marking Attendance Registers following Exclusion**

When a pupil is excluded temporarily, he/she will be marked as absent using Code E.

### **Removal from the School for Other Reasons**

The Headteacher may send a pupil home, after consultation with the parents as appropriate, if the pupil poses an immediate and serious risk to the health and safety of other pupils e.g. because of a diagnosed illness such as a notifiable disease. This will not be classed as an exclusion and should be for the shortest possible time.

### **Procedure for Appeal**

If parents wish to appeal against the decision to exclude, the matter will be referred to the governing body. Two governors, who were not involved in the initial decision to exclude, will acknowledge the complaint and schedule a hearing to take place as soon as practicable and normally within five days.

Records relating to the decision to exclude and the parents' complaint will be sent to all parties at least 5 days in advance of the hearing and this will be the responsibility of the clerk. Copied to all parties not later than two days prior to the hearing. In no circumstances however will the school or its staff be required to divulge to parents or others any confidential information on or the identities of pupils or others who have given information which has led to the exclusion or which the Headteacher has acquired during an investigation.

The parents may be accompanied to the hearing by one other person. This may be a relative, friend or advocate. Legal representation will not normally be appropriate and will not be permitted. If possible the governors will resolve the parents' complaint without the need for further investigation. Where further investigation is required, governors will decide how it should be carried out. After consideration of all the facts considered to be relevant, the governors will reach a decision on whether to uphold or rescind the exclusion or make other recommendations. This decision will be made within ten days of the hearing. Parents will be informed in writing of the governors' decision and the reasons for it. Their decision will be final. The governors' findings and any recommendations will be sent in writing to the parents, Headteacher and governing body.

Parents are entitled to appeal against a governing body's decision if it has upheld the Headteacher's decision to permanently exclude their child; even if they did not make a case to, or attend, the governors' meeting.

Parents should contact TH exclusions team for further information.

