

Policy

Bradfield CE Primary School



Exclusion of Pupils

At Bradfield we are

LEARNING TO LIVE, inspired by Christ.

With Jesus as our model, we are **LEARNING TO LIVE** with **COURAGE, COMPASSION, RESILIENCE and JOY.**

(I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you. John 13:15)

Policy Name	Exclusion of Pupils
Brief Description:	An overview of the Exclusion process
Status: Statutory/non-statutory	Statutory Policy
Other related policies and procedures:	Behaviour
Approval level: HT/Governors/FGB	FGB
Approved by the Governing Board on:	22.4.2021
Frequency to be reviewed	Every 3 years
Latest Date for Next Review:	March 2024
Version + Schedule of Amendments:	Written March 2016 Reviewed March 2021
Signed:	
Position:	
Date of Signature:	

Introduction and Aims

This policy explains the procedures and practice which inform the school's use of exclusion. It should be read in conjunction with the school's Behaviour Policy. It is underpinned by the shared commitment of all members of the school community to achieve two important aims:

1. The first is to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community, and to maintain an appropriate education environment in which all can learn and succeed.
2. The second is to realise the aim of reducing the need to use exclusion as a sanction.

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

- (a) In response to a serious breach of the school's Behaviour Policy
- (b) If allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of other persons or the pupil him/herself in the school.

Procedure

Exclusion is an extreme sanction and is only administered by or with the permission of the Headteacher. Exclusion, whether for a 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 school's Behaviour Policy:

- Physical abuse to/attack on other pupils
- Physical abuse to/attack on staff
- Refusal to follow reasonable instructions by staff where to not follow them puts the child in danger of actual physical harm
- Indecent behaviour
- Significant and deliberate damage to property
- Misuse of illegal drugs
- Misuse of other substances
- Sexual abuse or assault
- Supplying an illegal drug
- Carrying an offensive weapon
- Arson
- Unacceptable behaviour which has previously been reported and for which school sanctions and other interventions have not been successful in modifying the pupil's behaviour.

This is not an exhaustive list and there may be other situations where the Headteacher makes the judgement that exclusion is an appropriate sanction.

At times, the Headteacher will decide not to use the extreme sanction of an exclusion but will decide that either an internal exclusion may be appropriate or that a Behaviour Support Plan should be drawn up to try avoid the sanction of an exclusion in the future.

Exclusion process

Most exclusions are of a fixed term nature and are of short duration (usually between one and three days).

The DfE regulations allow the Headteacher to exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods, not exceeding a total of 45 school days in any one school year.

The Governors have established arrangements to review promptly all permanent exclusions from the school and all fixed term exclusions that would lead to a pupil being excluded for more than 15 days in a school term, or missing a public examination.

The Governors have established arrangements to review fixed term exclusions which would lead to a pupil being excluded for more than five days but not more than 15 days in a school term where a parent has expressed a wish to make representations.

Following exclusion, parents are contacted immediately where possible. A letter will be sent giving details of the exclusion and the date the exclusion ends. Parents have the right to make representations to the Governing Body and the Local Authority as directed in the letter.

A return to school meeting will be held following the expiry of the fixed term exclusion and this will involve a member of the Senior Management Team and other staff, where appropriate. During this meeting a short term Behaviour/ Pastoral Support Plan will be drawn up, which will include a review date.

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. School work will be provided by the class teacher so that the pupil is able to receive continued access to learning.

Records relating to exclusions will be stored confidentially.

Permanent Exclusion

The decision to exclude a pupil permanently is a serious one. There are two main types of situation in which permanent exclusion may be considered:

1. The first is a final, formal step in a concerted process for dealing with disciplinary offences following the use of a wide range of other strategies, which have been used without success. It is an acknowledgement that all available strategies have been exhausted and is used as a last resort. This would include persistent and defiant misbehaviour including bullying (which would include racist or homophobic bullying) or repeated possession and/or use of an illegal drug on school premises.
2. The second is where there are exceptional circumstances and it is not appropriate to implement other strategies and where it could be appropriate to permanently exclude a pupil for a first or "one off" offence. These might include:
 - Serious violence against another pupil or a member of staff
 - Sexual abuse or assault
 - Carrying an Offensive Weapon (Offensive weapons are defined in the Prevention of Crime Act 1993 as "any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person; or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him".
 - Arson
 - Behaviour which poses a significant risk to the child's own safety.

The school will involve the police for any relevant offences. These instances are not exhaustive but indicate the severity of such offences and the fact that such behaviour seriously affects the discipline and well-being of the school.

General factors the school considers before making a decision to exclude

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 pupil, either permanently or for a fixed period, the Headteacher will:

- Ensure appropriate investigations have been carried out, which includes allowing the pupil to give her/his version of events.
- Explore the wider context, taking into consideration how much the incident may have been provoked (for example by bullying or by racial or sexual harassment).
- Take into account the previous behaviour and character of the child
- Examine whether there are mitigating circumstances or whether there is a need to increase the level of nurture and pastoral support
- Consider all the evidence available to support the allegations taking into account the Behaviour Policy, Equal Opportunity and Race Equality Policies
- Explore a placement through fair access with other education providers
- Explore the possibility of a managed move to another LA school. If a managed move cannot be agreed between schools, then the school is to use Fair Access to request a managed move. *See Fair Access guidance

If the Headteacher is satisfied that on the balance of probabilities the pupil did what he/she is alleged to have done, then exclusion will be the outcome.

Procedure for Appeal

If parents wish to appeal the decision of exclusion the matter will be referred to the Governing Body and handled through the school and Local Authority appeal procedure. The Headteacher will ensure that the information regarding the appeal process will be included on the letter informing the parents of the exclusion.

Parental support and advice.

If a parent or carer considers that an exclusion relates to a disability the child has, and they believe disability discrimination has occurred, they may raise this issue with the governing body.

They can also make a claim of disability discrimination to the SEN and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST), Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington DL3.

Parents can also contact Ms Ros Arthur, Exclusions Officer at West Berkshire LEA, West Street House, West Street, Newbury, who can provide advice. Further advice can be obtained from the Advisory Centre for Education (ACE), which is an independent national advice centre for parents of children in state-maintained schools. They offer information and support on state education in England and Wales, including on exclusion from school. They can be contacted on 020 7704 9822 or at www.ace-ed.org.uk