

Suspension and Exclusion Policy

1. About this Policy

This policy aligns with the latest DfE statutory guidance on suspensions and permanent exclusions (updated August 2024). It outlines the legal, procedural, and safeguarding requirements for all exclusion decisions.

2. Changes in this Edition

This edition updates notification requirements, unlawful exclusion clarification, social worker and VSH involvement, early intervention expectations, and remote meeting processes.

3. Headteacher Powers

The headteacher may suspend or permanently exclude a pupil for serious or persistent breaches of behaviour policy where remaining in school would cause significant harm to education or welfare.

4. Factors to Consider Before Excluding

All decisions must consider mitigating circumstances, pupil views, SEND needs, safeguarding context, and whether early intervention strategies have been exhausted.

5. Duty to Inform Parents and Agencies

Parents must be notified without delay. Local authorities, governing boards, social workers, and VSHs must be informed where applicable.

6. Governing Board Duties

The board considers reinstatement requests, reviews exclusion decisions, and ensures legal compliance.

7. Education Provision

Full-time education must be arranged from day 6 for all suspensions and exclusions.

8. Independent Review Panel (IRP)

Parents may request a review within 15 school days. Panels must consider fairness, legality, SEN factors, and procedural compliance.

9. Remote Access to Meetings

Meetings may be held remotely if parents request or circumstances require, ensuring fairness and participation.

10. Returning from Suspension

A structured reintegration plan and meeting will support the pupil's return with clear expectations and pastoral support.

11. Monitoring and Review

Suspension and exclusion data will be analysed termly, with patterns monitored to ensure equality compliance and policy effectiveness.

12. Links with Other Policies

Behaviour, Safeguarding, SEND, Anti-Bullying, Attendance, Equality Duty.

Version	Date	Author	Notes on revision(s)	Date ratified by LGB	Next review date
5	January 2026	C. Johnson	Updated to align with the August 2024 DfE statutory guidance, including revised notification duties, strengthened expectations on early intervention, clarified unlawful exclusion procedures, and updated IRP/remote-meeting requirements.	March 2026	September 2026
4	September 2023	C. Johnson	Updated to reflect new guidance from the DfE on suspensions and permanent exclusions, which came into force on 1 September 2023	October 2023	September 2026
3	February 2022	C. Johnson	Review cycle included	08.02.2022	
2	March 2020	C. Johnson	No changes	07.05.2020	
1	January 2018	C. Johnson	New policy written for adoption		