

Policy Significant Changes

Policy name:	Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions Policy	Reason for changes:	<p>To update using DfE wording.</p> <p>To add more detail, particularly in the section on the reasons for the permanent exclusions and suspensions, so that there is a clearer differentiation between the two.</p> <p>To respond to recent feedback.</p> <p>To help provide a clever guide for school behaviour policies.</p>
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Clause/ Section:	Original wording on old policy: blue is the original wording to be taken out	Amended wording on new policy: red is the new wording to be added
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all suspensions and permanent exclusions are carried out lawfully; lawful, reasonable, fair and proportionate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all suspensions and permanent exclusions are carried out lawfully; lawful, reasonable, fair and proportionate.
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pupils in school are safe and happy; schools work to create safe and positive environments where pupils thrive and behaviour does not require exclusions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pupils in school are safe and happy; schools work to create safe and positive environments where pupils thrive and behaviour does not require exclusions.
2.1		<u>Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement.</u>
3.2	3.2 Permanent exclusion – when a pupil is removed from the school permanently and taken off the school roll. This is sometimes referred to as an ‘exclusion’.	3.2 Permanent exclusion – when a pupil is removed from the school permanently and taken off the school roll.
3.3	3.3 Off-site direction – when a pupil is required to attend another education setting temporarily, to improve their behaviour. As per the	3.3 Off-site direction – when a pupil is required to attend another education setting temporarily, to improve their behaviour. As per the

	Department for Education's Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Guidance (August 2024), an off-site direction is used as a temporary preventative measure to permanent exclusion. It states that 'school exclusions, managed moves and off-site direction are essential behaviour management tools for headteachers and can be used to establish high standards of behaviour in schools and to maintain safety of school communities'.	Department for Education's Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Guidance (August 2024), an off-site direction is used as a temporary preventative measure to permanent exclusion. It states that 'school exclusions, managed moves and off-site direction are essential behaviour management tools for headteachers and can be used to establish high standards of behaviour in schools and to maintain safety of school communities'.
3.5	3.5 Managed move – when a pupil is transferred to another school permanently. All parties, including parents/carers and the admission authority for the new school, should consent before a managed move occurs. As opposed to an off-site direction, 'a managed move is used to initiate a process which leads to the transfer of a student to another mainstream school permanently.' Parents and the schools must all be in agreement to ensure the move is part of a planned intervention to support the student. Whilst offsite directions and managed move are not an avenue schools want to pursue, they can and will be used where appropriate.	3.5 Managed move – when a pupil is transferred to another school permanently. All parties, including parents/carers and the admission authority for the new school, should consent before a managed move occurs. As opposed to an off-site direction, 'a managed move is used to initiate a process which leads to the transfer of a student to another mainstream school permanently.' Parents and the schools must all be in agreement to ensure the move is part of a planned intervention to support the student. Whilst offsite directions and managed move are not an avenue schools want to pursue, they can and will be used where appropriate.
3.6	3.6 Headteacher - the substantive Headteacher of the school, or where appropriate, the Executive Headteacher.	3.6 Headteacher - the substantive Headteacher of the school, or where appropriate, the Executive Headteacher, or Acting Headteacher.
3.7	n/a	3.7 Local Governing Body (LGB) - the governors management committee of a school.
3.8		3.8 Governors' Disciplinary Committee (GDC) - the group of governors who formally consider suspensions and permanent exclusions, which is generally made of members of the LGB and, where necessary or appropriate, other governors from across Swale Academies Trust.

<p>4.1</p>	<p>4.1 Headteachers are trusted to use their professional judgement based on the individual circumstances of the case when considering whether to suspend or permanently exclude a pupil. Schools should not adopt a ‘no exclusion’ policy as an end in itself. The reasons below are examples of the types of behaviour that may warrant suspension or permanent exclusion. The list is not exhaustive or definitive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical assault against a pupil; • physical assault against an adult; • verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against a pupil; • verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult; • use, or threat use, of an offensive weapon or prohibited item that has been prohibited by the school behaviour policy; • bullying; • racist abuse; • abuse against sexual orientation or gender reassignment; • abuse relating to disability. <p>The reasons below are examples of the types of circumstances that may warrant a suspension . It is important to note that this list is not definitive or exhaustive, and is not limited to the school site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verbal abuse against an adult. - Physical assault against a pupil. - Encouraging and participating in a physical assault against a pupil. - Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against a pupil. - Being in possession of a prohibited item or items relating to a prohibited item, such as an offensive weapon or dangerous piece of equipment, alcohol or drugs, pornographic images, or any item likely to cause significant disruption to the good order of the school. 	<p>4.1 Headteachers are trusted to use their professional judgement based on the individual circumstances of the case when considering whether to suspend or permanently exclude a pupil. Schools should not adopt a ‘no exclusion’ policy as an end in itself. The reasons below are examples of the types of behaviour that may warrant suspension or permanent exclusion. The list is not exhaustive or definitive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical assault against a pupil; • physical assault against an adult; • verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against a pupil; • verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against an adult; • use, or threat use, of an offensive weapon or prohibited item that has been prohibited by the school behaviour policy; • bullying; • racist abuse; • abuse against sexual orientation or gender reassignment; • abuse relating to disability. <p>The reasons below are examples of the types of circumstances that may warrant a suspension . It is important to note that this list is not definitive or exhaustive, and is not limited to the school site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verbal abuse against an adult. - Physical assault against a pupil. - Encouraging and participating in a physical assault against a pupil. - Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against a pupil. - Being in possession of a prohibited item or items relating to a prohibited item, such as an offensive weapon or dangerous piece of equipment, alcohol or drugs, pornographic images, or any item likely to cause significant disruption to the good order of the school.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child on child abuse, including various forms of bullying, including cyber-bullying. - Abuse directed at race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability and any other vulnerability or protected characteristic. - Repeated incidents of defiance, particularly those which undermine the authority of the school or disturb the learning environment for others. - Actions which are deliberately designed to bring the name of the school into disrepute, particularly relating to false allegations. <p>If a student exhibits extreme behaviour then the Headteacher has the right to pursue a permanent exclusion. As aforementioned, the Headteacher must consider if the decision to permanently exclude is lawful, reasonable, fair and proportionate.</p> <p>A decision to permanently exclude a student will be taken only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to serious or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, and - If allowing the student to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others. <p>The reasons below are examples of the types of circumstances that may warrant a permanent exclusion. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, including, but not isolated to, the list of behaviours in the suspensions section, particularly after significant interventions have been put in place by the school or outside agencies. It is important to note that a school can only use suspensions up to a maximum of 45 days in a single academic year. At this point, a permanent exclusion is highly likely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child on child abuse, including various forms of bullying, including cyber-bullying. - Abuse directed at race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability and any other vulnerability or protected characteristic. - Repeated incidents of defiance, particularly those which undermine the authority of the school or disturb the learning environment for others. - Actions which are deliberately designed to bring the name of the school into disrepute, particularly relating to false allegations. <p>If a student exhibits extreme behaviour then the Headteacher has the right to pursue a permanent exclusion. As aforementioned, the Headteacher must consider if the decision to permanently exclude is lawful, reasonable, fair and proportionate.</p> <p>A decision to permanently exclude a student will be taken only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to serious or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, and - If allowing the student to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others. <p>The reasons below are examples of the types of circumstances that may warrant a permanent exclusion. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, including, but not isolated to, the list of behaviours in the suspensions section, particularly after significant interventions have been put in place by the school or outside agencies. It is important to note that a school can only use suspensions up to a maximum of 45 days in a single academic year. At this point, a permanent exclusion is highly likely.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violent assault against a pupil causing significant harm or discomfort. - Physical assault or threatening physical assault against an adult. - Using, threatening to use, or distributing an offensive weapon. - Using, threatening to use, or distributing a prohibited item, such as alcohol or drugs, which could cause a significant safeguarding risk to the individual or other members of the school community. - Extreme incidents of child on child abuse including sexual violence, sexual harassment, teenage relationship abuse, consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude/semi-nude images and upskirting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violent assault against a pupil causing significant harm or discomfort. - Physical assault or threatening physical assault against an adult. - Using, threatening to use, or distributing an offensive weapon. - Using, threatening to use, or distributing a prohibited item, such as alcohol or drugs, which could cause a significant safeguarding risk to the individual or other members of the school community. - Extreme incidents of child on child abuse including sexual violence, sexual harassment, teenage relationship abuse, consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude/semi-nude images and upskirting.
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● consider whether the pupil has special educational needs (SEND); 	<p>Acting Headteacher</p> <p>consider whether the pupil has special educational needs (SEND), and whether this is a relevant factor;</p>
5.2.1	<p>Responsibilities regarding suspensions and permanent exclusions are delegated to the Governors' Disciplinary Committee (GDC) consisting of at least 3 governors.</p>	<p>Responsibilities regarding suspensions and permanent exclusions are delegated to the Governors' Disciplinary Committee (GDC) consisting of at least 3 governors. Where possible, governors should initially be chosen from the Local Governing Body of the school. However, staff governors should not be used, nor any governors who might have connections to the pupil. Governors from other Swale Academies Trust schools can be used when necessary or appropriate.</p>
8		<p>A detailed guide can be found in Parts 9-12 of: Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement.</p>

8.16		<p>8.16 Where a panel directs or recommends that the governing body reconsider whether a pupil should be reinstated the LGB will reconvene to do so within ten school days of being given notice of the panel's decision. The GDC may decide to have at least one new member, whether from within the LGB, or from an LGB in another Swale Academies Trust School.</p>
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