



Exclusion Policy

POLICY TYPE	NON-STATUTORY
OWNER	P&S
APPROVING COMMITTEE	P&S
REVIEW EVERY	3 YEARS
APPROVED BY	
POSITION	
DATE	23 rd March 2017

St Christopher's CE Primary School

Vision Statement

A school where:

- *The uniqueness of individuals is respected and valued.*
- *The staff provide a safe and nurturing environment which supports children to approach their learning with an enquiring mind, courage and perseverance.*
- *Children's continually evolving needs are identified and they are equipped with the skills and motivation to succeed.*
- *All achievements are recognised and children learn to value their own successes.*

All within the loving support of our Lord Jesus Christ

St Christopher's CE Primary School has a distinctive Christian ethos which is at the centre of school life. We provide an inclusive, supportive and caring environment, shaped by Christian values in which children can learn and flourish. We welcome applications from all members of the community without reference to ability or aptitude, and irrespective of whether they are of the Christian faith, another faith or no faith, but we expect parents to respect the Christian ethos of our school.

Intention

St. Christopher's CE Primary School aims to provide a happy and secure environment for the Pupils, Staff, Parents and visitors to the school. As a school we will make every effort to ensure that every child has the opportunity to attend school.

While recognising the rights of individual children we also recognise the rights of the school family to feel safe and protected while at school and to work and achieve in a happy and enjoyable environment.

St. Christopher's CE Primary School is committed to keeping children in full time education but where individuals do not respond to the positive encouragement and support within the school and continually break the guidelines outlined with our policy on Behaviour we will consider an exclusion as a last resort.

The use of exclusions is a very serious step, and all other avenues will be considered before this sanction is used.

Introduction

This policy deals with the policy and practice which informs the School's use of exclusion. 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 educational environment in which all can learn and succeed;
- 2) The second is reducing the need to use exclusion as a sanction.

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

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- (a) In response to a serious breach of the School's Behaviour Policy;
- (b) If allowing the child to remain in School would seriously harm the education or welfare of the child or others in the School.

Exclusion is an extreme sanction and is only administered by the Headteacher.

Exclusion, whether 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:

- Verbal abuse to Staff and others.
- Verbal abuse to children.
- Physical abuse to/attack on Staff and others.
- Physical abuse to/attack on children.
- Age inappropriate indecent behaviour.
- Damage to property.
- Misuse of illegal drugs.
- Misuse of other substances.
- Theft.
- Serious actual or threatened violence against another child or a member of staff.
- 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 child's behaviour.

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

Exclusion procedure

Most exclusions nationally 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 child for one or more fixed periods not exceeding 45 school days in any one school year.

The Governors will be informed of any exclusion.

Governors will review promptly all permanent exclusions from the School and all fixed term exclusions that would lead to a child being excluded for:

- over 15 days in a school term or missing a National examination.
- over five days but not over 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 by post giving details of the exclusion and the date the exclusion ends. Parents have a right to make representations to the Governing Body and the LEA as directed in the letter.

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A return to School meeting will be held following the expiry of the fixed term exclusion and this will involve the Headteacher and other staff where appropriate.

During the course of a fixed term exclusion where the child is to be at home, parents are advised that the child is not allowed on the School premises, and that daytime supervision is their responsibility, as parents/guardians.

Permanent Exclusion

The decision to exclude a child 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 child for a first or one off offence. Including but not limited to:
 - Serious actual or threatened violence against another child or a member of staff.
 - Sexual abuse or assault.
 - Supplying an illegal drug.
 - Carrying an offensive weapon¹.
 - Arson.

The School will consider police involvement for any of the above offences.

These instances are not exhaustive but indicate the severity of such offences and the fact that such behaviour seriously affects the discipline and wellbeing of the School.

Exclusion will not be imposed instantly unless there is an immediate threat to the safety of others in the School or the child concerned. Before deciding whether to exclude a child either permanently or for a fixed period the Head will:

- Ensure appropriate investigations have been carried out.
- Consider all the evidence available to support the allegations taking into account the Behaviour Policy, Equal Opportunity and Equality Policies.
- Allow the child to give her/his version of events.
- Check whether the incident may have been provoked for example by bullying or by racial or sexual harassment.

¹ Offensive weapons are defined in the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 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."

If the Head is satisfied that on the balance of probabilities the child did what he or she is alleged to have done, exclusion will be the outcome.

Exercise of discretion

In reaching a decision, the Head will always look at each case on its own merits. Therefore, a tariff system, fixing a standard penalty for a particular action, is both unfair and inappropriate.

In considering whether permanent exclusion is the most appropriate sanction, the Head will consider

- a) the gravity of the incident, or series of incidents, and whether it constitutes a serious breach of the School's Behaviour Policy
and
- b) the effect that the child remaining in the School would have on the education and welfare of other children and staff.

In line with its statutory duty, these same two tests of appropriateness will form the basis of the deliberations of the Governors when it meets to consider the Headteacher's decision to exclude.

The Governors will require the Headteacher to explain the reasons for the decision and will look at appropriate evidence, such as the child's School record, witness statements and the strategies used by the School to support the child prior to exclusion.

Alternatives to Exclusion

Alternative strategies to exclusion are included in the Pupil Behaviour Policy. The School works closely with ODST and the Local Authority and other primary schools to undertake managed moves where such a course of action would be of benefit both to the child and the two schools concerned. However, the threat of a permanent exclusion will never be used as the means to coerce parents to move their child to another school.

Lunchtime Exclusion

Children whose behaviour at lunchtime is disruptive may be excluded from the School premises for the duration of the lunchtime period. This will be treated as fixed term exclusion and parents will have the same right to gain information and to appeal.

Behaviour Outside School

Children's behaviour outside School on school "business" for example school trips and journeys or away school sports fixtures is subject to the School's Behaviour Policy. Bad behaviour in these circumstances will be dealt with as if it had taken place in School. For behaviour outside School but not on school business this policy will still have effect if there is a clear link between that behaviour and maintaining good behaviour and discipline among the school cohort as a whole. If children's behaviour in the immediate vicinity of the School or on a journey to and from school is poor and meets the School criteria for exclusion then the Headteacher may decide to exclude.