



St Mary's and St Peter's C of E School

Suspension and Exclusion Policy

We believe high standards of care and love are an integral part in the quality of teaching and learning across the whole curriculum. Our Christian vision of 'Life in all its fullness' is at the heart of our school and we believe that all within our community should be able to flourish and achieve their full potential.

This policy, along with all our policies and practices, has been written with our vision of *life in all its fullness* for the children, staff, and wider community in mind, and to support us in realising that vision.

This policy reflects the core values of the school: wisdom, hope, community and dignity.

We are committed to following all statutory exclusions procedures to ensure that every child receives an education in a safe and caring environment. A decision to exclude a pupil will be taken only:

In response to serious or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, and

If allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others.

Only the headteacher (or the acting headteacher) has the power to exclude a pupil from school. The headteacher may suspend a pupil for one or more fixed periods, for up to 45 days in any one school year. The headteacher may also exclude a pupil permanently. It is also possible for the headteacher to convert a fixed-term suspension into a permanent exclusion, if the circumstances warrant this.

If the headteacher suspends a pupil, s/he informs the parents immediately, giving reasons for the suspension. At the same time, the headteacher makes it clear to the parents that they can, if they wish, appeal against the decision to the governing body. The school informs the parents how to make any such appeal (Local Authority Information Guide for Parents).

Following a fixed-term suspension, a re-integration meeting will be held involving the pupil, parents, a member of senior staff and other staff, where appropriate. The following measures may be implemented when a pupil returns from a fixed-term suspension: agreeing a behaviour contract; internal isolation.

The headteacher informs the LA and governing body about any permanent exclusion, and about any fixed-term suspensions, without delay. If a pupil has a social worker or if a pupil is looked-after, the headteacher must, without delay, notify the social worker and/or VSH, as applicable.

The governing body itself cannot either suspend a pupil or extend the suspension period made by the headteacher.

The governing body has a discipline committee which is made up of between three and five members. This committee considers any exclusion appeals on behalf of the governors.

When an appeals panel meets to consider exclusion, they consider the circumstances in which the pupil was excluded, consider any representation by parents and the LA, and consider whether the pupil should be reinstated.

Governing body reinstatement meetings can be held via the use of remote access. However, face to face meetings are always encouraged.

If the governors' appeals panel decides that a pupil should be reinstated, the headteacher must comply with this ruling.

The headteacher can cancel an exclusion before the governing body has met to consider whether the pupil should be reinstated. If this occurs, the parents, the governing body and the local authority must be notified and, if relevant, the social worker or Virtual School Headteacher.

The headteacher monitors the number of suspensions and exclusions every term and reports back to the governors. The headteacher also liaises with the local authority to ensure suitable full-time education for pupils suspended or excluded for more than 5 days.

St Mary's and St. Peter's school fully recognises its moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils and staff. Our Suspension and Exclusion Policy is one of a range of documents which set out the safeguarding responsibilities of the school. We wish to create a safe, welcoming and vigilant environment for children and staff where they feel valued and are respected.

This exclusions policy is linked to our Behaviour policy, SEND policy and Equality Policy and Objectives.

This policy has been updated in light of the DfE guidance, Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement, May 2023.

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