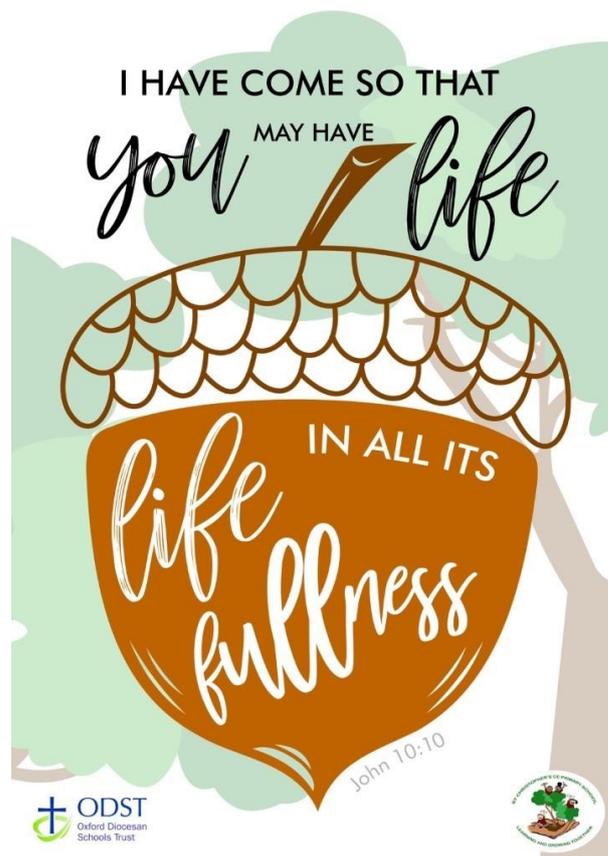


Exclusion Policy

St Christopher's Primary School Cowley



Date of Ratified	Signed By/Position	Signature
March 2021	Executive HeadTeacher Katie Screaton	
	Head of School Susie Davies	
	Chair of Governors Jean Holderness	



This policy, which links with the school's Engagement for Learning 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 to realise the aim of reducing the need to use exclusion as a sanction.

Introduction

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

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

Exclusion is an extreme sanction and is only administered by the Executive Headteacher (or, in the absence of the Head, the Head of School who is acting in that role).

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 Engagement for Learning Policy:

- Verbal abuse to staff or pupils
- Physical abuse to staff or pupils
- Emotional abuse towards pupils
- Threatening behaviour using social media
- Persistent refusal which could put themselves or other in danger
- Indecent behaviour
- Damage to property
- Theft
- Sexual abuse or assault
- Carrying an offensive weapon
- Unacceptable behaviour, that goes against the school's behaviour policy and where sanctions and other interventions have not been successful in modifying the 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.

Behaviour, Consequences and Sanctions

St Christopher's Primary School follow an Engagement for Learning Policy based on RESPECT which teachers are expected to apply consistently.

Please see Engagement for Learning policy

Exclusion procedure

Most external exclusions are of a fixed term nature and are of short duration (usually between one and three days). The DfE regulations allow the Executive Headteacher to exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods not exceeding 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 over 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 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 Trust (ODST) as directed in the letter.

A return to School meeting (reintegration meeting) will be held following the expiry of the fixed term exclusion and this will involve a member of the Senior Management Team, the Head of Year/phase leader and other staff where appropriate.

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 will provide work.

Internal Exclusion

Internal exclusion can be issued for poor behaviour and attitude, verbal and physical abuse towards other members of the School and local community. The duration of the exclusion will be dependent of the behaviour step the child is on and the individual circumstances. The supervised internally, and work will be provided.

Fixed Term Exclusion

This will take effect normally at Behaviour Step 6 or if a serious incident occurs. This is a serious sanction and, following exclusion, parents/carers must attend the School for a re-admission meeting with the child to discuss future education strategies.

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), repeated acts of violence to others, repeated acts that affect the welfare and learning of others, 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 actual or threatened violence against another student or a member of staff.
- Sexual abuse or assault.
- Supplying an illegal drug.
- Carrying an offensive weapon *.
- Arson.

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

** 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."*

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 Head will:

- Ensure appropriate investigations have been carried out.
- Consider all the evidence available to support the allegations taking into account the School's Engagement for Learning Policy, Equal Opportunity and Race Equality Policies.
- Allow the pupil 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.

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

Alternatives to Exclusion

Alternative strategies to exclusion are included in the School's Engagement for Learning Policy. The School works closely with ODST, the Local Authority and other primary schools to undertake managed

moves where such a course of action would be of benefit both to the pupil 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

Pupils' 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

Pupils' behaviour outside School on school "business" for example school trips and journeys, away school sports fixtures is subject to the School's Engagement for Learning Policy. Poor behaviour/Poor choices 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 pupil body as a whole.

If pupils' 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 Head may decide to exclude.

Exercise of discretion

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 Engagement for Learning Policy and
- b) the effect that the pupil remaining in the School would have on the education and welfare of other pupils' and staff.

Nonetheless, in the case of a pupil found in possession of an offensive weapon, whether there is an intention to use it or not, it is the School's usual policy in this particularly serious matter to issue a permanent exclusion.

In line with its statutory duty, these same two tests of appropriateness will form the basis of the deliberations of the Governors' Pupil Discipline Committee, when it meets to consider the Headteacher's decision to exclude. This Committee will require the Headteacher to explain the reasons for the decision and will look at appropriate evidence, such as the pupil's School record, witness statements and the strategies used by the School to support the pupil prior to exclusion.

POLICY HISTORY

Policy written March 2021

Next review – September 2022