

<b>The Chiltern School</b>	<b>Exclusions Policy</b>	
------------------------------------	--------------------------	---

Date Policy Adopted	Policy Review Date	Author
July 2022	July 2023	Louise Clarke

### **The Chiltern School Vision**

*Where we learn and achieve together, where we dare to be different. Our vision is to be a centre of excellence, to inspire, innovate and promote the best practice in inclusive pedagogy, that is recognised locally, regionally and nationally for SEND development and provision, where we put the pupils at the heart of all decision making. Our children will leave being happy, confident, inquisitive and independent.*

#### **Our school aims to ensure that:**

- The exclusions process is applied legally and in accordance with Department for Education guidance
- The exclusions process is applied fairly and consistent
- The exclusions process is understood by governors, staff, parents and pupils
- Pupils in school are safe and happy
- Pupils do not become NEET (not in education, employment or training)

#### **Legislation and Statutory Guidance**

This policy is based on statutory guidance from the Department for Education, [Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units \(PRUs\) in England](#): Statutory guidance for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion.

It is based on the following legislation, which outline schools' powers to exclude pupils:

- Section 52 of the [Education Act 2002](#), as amended by the [Education Act 2011](#)
- [The School Discipline \(Pupil Exclusions and Reviews\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
- Sections 64-68 of the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#)
- In addition, the policy is based on:
- Part 7, chapter 2 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#), which looks at parental responsibility for excluded pupils
- Section 579 of the [Education Act 1996](#), which defines 'school day'

- The [Education \(Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils\) \(England\) Regulations 2007](#), as amended by [The Education \(Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

## **The Decision to Exclude**

Only the Headteacher, or Acting Headteacher, can exclude a pupil from school. A permanent exclusion will be taken as a last resort.

Our school is aware that off-rolling is unlawful. Ofsted defines off-rolling as:

"...the practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without a formal, permanent exclusion or by encouraging a parent to remove their child from the school roll, when the removal is primarily in the interests of the school rather than in the best interests of the pupil."

We are committed to following all statutory exclusions procedures to ensure that every pupil 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

Before deciding whether to exclude a pupil, either permanently or for a fixed period, the Headteacher will:

- Consider all the relevant facts and evidence, including whether the incident(s) leading to the exclusion were provoked
- Where possible, the pupil's version of events and views will be sought
- Consider the special educational needs of the pupil, giving regard to the SEND Code of Practice 2015
- Consider implications of any protected characteristics with reference to the Equalities Act 2010
- Where a pupil has received multiple exclusions or is approaching the legal limit of 45 days of fixed-period exclusion in an academic year, the Headteacher will consider whether exclusion is providing an effective sanction

Examples of behaviour that may result in either fixed term or permanent exclusion are set out in Appendix A.

## **Definition**

For the purposes of exclusions, school day is defined as any day on which there is a school session. Therefore, INSET or staff training days do not count as a school day.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

1. The Headteacher

Informing parents

The Headteacher will immediately provide the following information, in writing, to the parents of an excluded pupil:

- The reason(s) for the exclusion
- The length of a fixed-term exclusion or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent
- Information about parents' right to make representations about the exclusion to the governing body and how the pupil may be involved in this

Where there is a legal requirement for the governing body to meet to consider the reinstatement of a pupil, and that parents have a right to attend a meeting, be represented at a meeting (at their own expense) and to bring a friend. The Headteacher will also notify parents by the end of the afternoon session on the day their child is excluded that for the first 5 school days of an exclusion, or until the start date of any alternative provision where this is earlier, parents are legally required to ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours without a good reason.

Parents may be given a fixed penalty notice or prosecuted if they fail to do this. If alternative provision is being arranged, the following information will be included when notifying parents of an exclusion:

- The start date for any provision of full-time education that has been arranged
- The start and finish times of any such provision, including the times for morning and afternoon sessions, where relevant
- The address at which the provision will take place
- Any information required by the pupil to identify the person they should report to on the first day
- Draw their attention to sources of free and impartial information including the statutory guidance for exclusions, sources of impartial advice and links to local support services where appropriate
- Where this information on alternative provision is not reasonably ascertainable by the end of the afternoon session, it may be provided in a subsequent notice, but it will be provided no later than 48 hours before the provision is due to start. The only exception to this is where alternative provision is to be provided before the sixth day of an exclusion, in which case the information can be provided with less than 48 hours' notice with parents' consent.

Information shared with parents/carers will be clear and easily understood. Where a parent/carer's first language is not English consideration will be given, where practical, to translating the letter or taking additional steps to ensure that the details of the exclusion and their right to make representations to the governing body are understood.

Informing the governing body and local authority

The Headteacher will immediately notify the governing body and the local authority (LA) of:

- A permanent exclusion, including when a fixed-period exclusion is made permanent

- Exclusions which would result in the pupil being excluded for more than 5 school days (or more than 10 lunchtimes) in a term
- Exclusions which would result in the pupil missing a public examination

For a permanent exclusion, if the pupil lives outside the LA in which the school is located, the Headteacher will also immediately inform the pupil's 'home authority' of the exclusion and the reason(s) for it without delay.

For all other exclusions, the Headteacher will notify the governing body and LA once a term.

## 2. The governing body

Responsibilities regarding exclusions is delegated to the discipline committee of the governing body consisting of at least 3 governors. The governing body has a duty to consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil. Within 14 days of receipt of a request, the governing body will provide the secretary of state and the LA with information about any exclusions in the last 12 months. For a fixed-period exclusion of more than 5 school days, the governing body will arrange suitable full-time education for the pupil. This provision will begin no later than the sixth day of the exclusion. Provision does not have to be arranged for pupils in the final year of compulsory education who do not have any further public examinations to sit.

## 3. The Local Authority

For permanent exclusions, the LA is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education to begin no later than the sixth day of the exclusion.

### **Considering the reinstatement of a pupil**

The committee of the governing body will consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil within 15 school days of receiving the notice of the exclusion if:

- The exclusion is permanent
- It is a fixed-term exclusion which would bring the pupil's total number of school days of exclusion to more than 15 in a term
- It would result in a pupil missing a public examination

If requested to do so by parents, the discipline committee of the governing body will consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil within 50 school days of receiving notice of the exclusion if the pupil would be excluded from school for more than 5 school days, but less than 15, in a single term.

Where an exclusion would result in a pupil missing a public examination, the discipline committee of the governing body will consider the reinstatement of the pupil before the date of the examination. If this is not practicable, the chair of the governing body (or the vice-chair where the chair is unable to make this consideration) will consider the exclusion independently and decide whether or not to reinstate the pupil.

The discipline committee of the governing body can either:

- Decline to reinstate the pupil, or
- Direct the reinstatement of the pupil immediately, or on a particular date.

In reaching a decision, the discipline committee of the governing body will consider whether the exclusion was lawful, rational, reasonable and procedurally fair and whether the Headteacher followed their legal duties. They will decide whether or not a fact is true 'on the balance of probabilities', which differs from the criminal standard of 'beyond reasonable doubt', as well as any evidence that was presented in relation to the decision to exclude. Minutes will be taken of the meeting, and a record of evidence considered kept. The outcome will also be recorded on the pupil's educational record. The discipline committee of the governing body will notify, in writing, the Headteacher, parents and the LA of its decision, along with reasons for its decision, without delay.

Where an exclusion is permanent, the decision of the discipline committee of the governing body will also include the following:

- The fact that it is permanent
- Notice of parents' right to ask for the decision to be reviewed by an independent review panel, and:
  1. The date by which an application for an independent review must be made
  2. The name and address to whom an application for a review should be submitted
  3. That any application should set out the grounds on which it is being made and that, where appropriate, reference to how the pupil's SEN are considered to be relevant to the exclusion
  4. That, regardless of whether the excluded pupil has recognised SEN, parents have a right to require the LA to appoint an SEN expert to attend the review
  5. Details of the role of the SEN expert and that there would be no cost to parents for this appointment
  6. That parents must make clear if they wish for an SEN expert to be appointed in any application for a review
  7. That parents may, at their own expense, appoint someone to make written and/or oral representations to the panel, and parents may also bring a friend to the review

### **An Independent Review**

If parents apply for an independent review, the LA will arrange for an independent panel to review the decision of the governing body not to reinstate a permanently excluded pupil.

Applications for an independent review must be made within 15 school days of notice being given to the parents by the discipline committee of the governing body of its decision to not reinstate a pupil.

A panel of 3 or 5 members will be constituted with representatives from each of the categories below. Where a 5-member panel is constituted, 2 members will come from the school governor category and 2 members will come from the Headteacher category.

- A lay member to chair the panel who has not worked in any school in a paid capacity, disregarding any experience as a school governor or volunteer

- School governors who have served as a governor for at least 12 consecutive months in the last 5 years, provided they have not been teachers or Head Teachers during this time
- Headteachers or individuals who have been a Headteacher within the last 5 years. A person may not serve as a member of a review panel if they:
  - Are a member of the LA, or governing body of the excluding school
  - Are the Headteacher of the excluding school, or have held this position in the last 5 years
  - Are an employee of the LA, or the governing body, of the excluding school (unless they are employed as a Headteacher at another school)
  - Have, or at any time have had, any connection with the LA, school, governing body, parents or pupil, or the incident leading to the exclusion, which might reasonably be taken to raise doubts about their impartiality
  - Have not had the required training within the last 2 years (see appendix 1 for what training must cover)
- A clerk will be appointed to the panel.
- The independent panel will decide one of the following:
  - Uphold the governing body's decision
  - Recommend that the governing body reconsiders reinstatement
  - Quash the governing body's decision and direct that they reconsider reinstatement (only when the decision is judged to be flawed). The panel's decision can be decided by a majority vote. In the case of a tied decision, the chair has the casting vote.

## **School Registers**

A pupil's name will be removed from the school admissions register if:

- 15 school days have passed since the parents were notified of the exclusion panel's decision to not reinstate the pupil and no application has been made for an independent review panel, or
- The parents have stated in writing that they will not be applying for an independent review panel.

Where an application for an independent review has been made, the governing body will wait until that review has concluded before removing a pupil's name from the register. Where alternative provision has been made for an excluded pupil and they attend it, code B (education off-site) or code D (dual registration) will be used on the attendance register. Where excluded pupils are not attending alternative provision, code E (absent) will be used.

## **Returning From a Fixed-term Exclusion**

Following a fixed-term exclusion, a re-integration meeting will be held involving the pupil, parents, a member of senior staff and other staff, where appropriate.

## **Equal Opportunities**

The policy coordinators will apply this policy with due regard to the Equalities Act 2010. The school will ensure that all pupils are offered an equal opportunity with particular regard to the protected characteristics defined in the Equalities Act 2010.

The effectiveness of this policy in relation to the protected characteristics will be monitored by the policy coordinators.

It should be noted that The Chiltern School is an area special school and any pupils excluded from the school are highly likely to have the protected characteristic of disability. The Headteacher and governors of The Chiltern School will ensure that they have due regard to the statutory guidance for pupils with SEND and the Equalities Act. It must also be noted that the Headteacher has a legal right to exclude if pupils meet the requirements of the two stage legal test regardless of their protected characteristics (and subject to other considerations that are set out in the statutory guidance).

## **Monitoring Arrangements**

The Headteacher monitors the number of exclusions every term and reports back to the governors. They also liaise with the local authority to ensure suitable full-time education for excluded pupils.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher every year. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing body.

## **Links With Other Policies**

This exclusions policy is linked to our:

Anti Bullying Policy

Behaviour and Mental Health Policy

Behaviour Principles Statement

## Appendix A

Examples of behaviour that may result in either a fixed term or permanent exclusion are set out below. This is not a definitive list nor is it considered exhaustive or binding. The Headteacher will make a decision based on the principles of the civil burden of proof, the two stage legal test and the statutory guidance. The list below is for illustrative purposes only.

Examples of behaviour that may result in exclusion, the decision to impose a fixed term exclusion or a permanent exclusion will rest on the frequency, persistency and seriousness of the incidents as well as whether or not the behaviour would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school:

- Online or in person bullying
- Racist, homophobic, transphobic and other discriminatory behaviour, comments or actions
- Carrying or use of weapons
- Use of legal or illegal drugs including the consumption of alcohol
- Violence, fighting or causing injury to other pupils or staff
- Damage to property
- Harassment of another pupil or a staff member, including sexual harassment
- Sexual assault