

THE MEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Exclusions Policy

Guiding Principle

'Good discipline in schools is essential to ensure that all pupils can benefit from the opportunities provided by education. The Government supports head teachers in using exclusion as a sanction where it is warranted. However, permanent exclusion should only be used as a last resort, in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.' (DfE, 2017)

Exclusions will always be dealt with in accordance with the current guidance from Shropshire Council and the Department for Education.

Considering Exclusion

In considering whether to exclude a pupil, the head teacher will weigh up the seriousness, or persistence of the pupil's behaviour, together with the impact of not excluding the pupil on the school as a whole and the integrity of its behaviour policy.

As a school we make every effort to identify pupils at risk of exclusion as early as possible and endeavour to put strategies in place to address problematic behaviour. Staff will attempt to identify if there are any causal factors and intervene early in order to reduce the need for subsequent exclusion. Staff will also consider whether alternative provision would help improve the pupil's behaviour.

The use of exclusion will always reflect the importance of good behaviour for the education and welfare of all pupils.

Type of exclusion

School exclusions can be either fixed-term i.e. excluded from attending school for one or more days or permanent, when the child would be removed from the school's roll.

Once excluded

'All pupils have the right to an education.' (DfE, 2015)

We will therefore take all reasonable steps to set and mark work for a pupil during the first five school days of an exclusion. As a school, we then have a duty to arrange education from the sixth day onwards if the exclusion exceeds five consecutive days. If permanently excluded, the Local Authority are responsible for providing alternative provision after the first five days of the permanent exclusion.

Reintegration

An excluded pupil will be invited to a reintegration meeting, with their parents, upon their timetabled return to school. The pupil and their parents will meet with the Headteacher and class teacher to ensure that reasons for the exclusion are fully understood by both pupil and parents and any new strategies required are fully explained before the start of the pupil's return to their classroom.

Record Keeping

Copies of all exclusion documents and copies of letters to parents are filed in the Headteacher's Behaviour file and an Exclusions log is maintained. The Local Authority is notified of an exclusion via the online portal on the Shropshire Learning Gateway.

Information Sharing

Details of the number and type of exclusions are reported in an anonymised format to the school's Governing Body each term and are collected as part of the termly School Census information reported to the DfE.

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Disputes

In the event of a dispute over an exclusion, a meeting of the Pupil Discipline Committee will be convened. Any subsequent appeal will be dealt with by the Appeals Committee.

Compliance with DfE Statutory Guidance

This policy is fully aligned with the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance on exclusions, including the document titled "Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement."

Parent Notification

Parents will be informed of exclusions without delay, ideally on the same day.

Written communication will include:

- The reason for the exclusion.
- The length and type of exclusion.
- Their right to make representations to the governing body.
- Their right to appeal (for permanent exclusions or longer suspensions).
- The legal requirement to ensure their child is not in public places during the first 5 days.

Governing Body Duties

The Governing Body will meet to review exclusions in the following circumstances:

- Permanent exclusions.
- Suspensions exceeding 15 school days in a term.
- When a pupil misses a public exam or national curriculum test.

Pupil Voice

The pupil's views will be considered during the exclusion and reintegration process, where appropriate.

Equality and SEND Considerations

All exclusions will be considered in light of the Equality Act 2010 and the SEND Code of Practice, particularly for pupils with EHCPs or known additional needs.