



# Exclusion Policy

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## Introduction

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

- When there has been a serious breach of the school's Behaviour Policy
- If allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of pupils and / or staff.

Exclusion is not a sanction that is taken lightly at Mill Hill Primary School and is only issued by the Headteacher (or, in the absence of the Head, the member of the Senior Leadership Team 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

Behaviour Policy;

- Unacceptable behaviour which has previously been reported and for which school sanctions and other interventions have not been successful in modifying the pupil's behaviour.
- Verbal or physical abuse of other pupils or school staff
- Aggression towards other pupils leading to the possibility of physical or emotional harm
- Indecent 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 are of a fixed term nature and are of short duration [most commonly up to 5 days] DFE regulations allow the Headteacher to exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods not exceeding 45 school days in any one school year.

The Governors will ensure there are arrangements in place 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 will make 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 LA as directed in the letter.

A return to School meeting will be held following the expiry of the fixed term exclusion and this will involve a member of the Senior Leadership Team and other staff where appropriate with the pupil and their parents. 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. The DFE guidance states that they should not be in a public place and school will advise parents of this. Work will be provided by the class teacher.

When appropriate the school will issue an internal exclusion; this will entail the child completing their learning in a different area to the rest of their class for a specified period.

#### 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 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).
2. When a serious criminal act has been committed, the school will involve the police in any such offence.

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 Headteacher will;

- Ensure appropriate investigations have been carried out
- Consider all the evidence available to support the allegations taking into account the school policies
- Allow the pupil to give her/his version of events
- Check whether the incident may have been provoked.

#### Children with SEN / Medical Needs

The Headteacher will take into consideration a child's SEN and will pay due attention as to whether these were a factor in the incident / incidents possibly leading to exclusion. These will be reviewed on an individual basis. If the Headteacher 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 and the headteacher will inform the chair of governors as soon as possible.

This policy will be reviewed annually.