



**LAURUS
RYECROFT**

Suspension and Exclusion Process

Author: R Carling

Last reviewed: April 2023

Next Review Date: July 2026

Suspension from School

A decision to suspend a pupil is a very serious one. Only the Headteacher (or, in the absence of the Headteacher or teacher in charge, the most senior teacher who is acting in that role) can suspend a pupil.

The decision to suspend a pupil should only be taken in a response to serious breaches of the school's behaviour policy and if allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school. There will however be exceptional circumstances where, in the Headteacher's judgement it is appropriate to permanently suspend a child for a first or 'one off' offence.

There are two types of Suspension:

Fixed Term Suspensions

Permanent Suspensions

Fixed Term Suspension from School

The regulations allow Headteachers to suspend a pupil for one or more fixed term periods not exceeding 45 days in any one school year. The school is obliged to provide education whilst the pupil is on roll. In all cases of more than a day's suspension, work should be set and marked.

When a Fixed Term Suspension is given a letter is sent home stating the reason(s) for the suspension, the period of the suspension and the date on which the suspension begins and ends. The letter should also include the date the pupil is to return to school.

Permanent Suspension from School

The school Governor's must meet to review the decision of the Headteacher to permanently suspend a pupil. The parents will be invited and should attend that meeting, they can also be accompanied. They can make representations on behalf of their child, challenge the school's case and ask whatever questions they want. For all community, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided schools, an officer of the Local Authority may also attend this meeting to ensure that correct procedure is adhered to. Parents of pupils who have been permanently suspended from Academies can request an officer from the local authority attends the meeting.

What happens to a pupil once they have been permanently suspended?

Once a child has been permanently suspended, he/she remains on the roll of the school until any review is determined, the time limit for a review has expired without a review being brought, or the parent has told the Local Authority that no review is being brought.

Guidance regarding both Permanent and Fixed Term Suspensions is published by the Department for Education 'Suspension from maintained schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England' (date of issue September 2012). This is the document which Headteachers, Governors and the Local Education Authority use for guidance.

Reviewing the decision

Once a decision has been made to permanently suspend a pupil and subsequently this decision is upheld by the Governor's Discipline Committee the parent/carer will receive a letter from the governors informing them of its decision stating the reasons.

Parents/Carers have 15 school days in which to ask an independent review panel to review the decision. You should apply for a review, in writing, within 15 school days from the date you receive the decision letter from the governing body.

A meeting will be set up for you with an independent review panel of three or five people. The review panel must meet no later than the 15th school day after the day on which the request was lodged.

Parents can request that an SEN (special educational needs) expert attends the panel. The review panel must seek and have regard to the SEN expert's view of how SEN might be relevant to the pupil's suspension.

You will lose your right to put your case to an independent review panel if:

Your request for a review is not received by the expiry date in the letter confirming the decision to uphold the suspension you inform the Local Authority in writing that you do not wish to request a review.

Equality Impact Assessments

<p>Names and titles of people involved with this assessment</p>	<p>Rachel Robinson Director of Inclusion</p>
<p>Title of Policy – Suspensions</p>	
<p>Impact assessment carried out with regard to identified characteristics</p>	<p>Race <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Disability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Religion & belief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sexual orientation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Summary of any issues/proposed changes</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Date</p>	<p>05.05.23</p>
<p>Date of next review</p>	<p>July 2024</p>
<p>Responsible Staff</p>	