

## **Exclusion Policy 2023**

Each child and situation will be treated individually. We will always work with all the staff and parents to ensure the best interests of the child, only as a last resort will exclusion be considered.

We expect all members of the school community to act in a reasonable, supportive and respectful manner in ensuring the well-being of our community. Where this is compromised by the conduct of a child or parent exclusion will be considered.

Ormesby Village Infant and Junior Schools Federation will apply its behaviour policies in a consistent, rigorous and non-discriminatory way and all areas of application of these policies will be monitored routinely.

Prior to deciding upon any exclusion, the following alternative processes can be considered should these be more appropriate:

**Off-Site Direction** – This is when a governing board of a maintained school requires a pupil to attend another education setting to improve their behaviour. Whilst the legislation does not apply to academies, they can arrange off-site provision for such purposes under their general powers. Where interventions or targeted support have not been successful in improving a pupil's behaviour, off-site direction should be used to arrange time-limited placements at an Alternative Provision or another mainstream school. During the off-site direction to another school, pupils must be dual registered. Code B should be used for any off-site educational activity, if the provision is an approved educational activity that does not involve the pupil being registered at any other school.

The length of time a pupil spends in another mainstream school or AP and the reintegration plan must be kept under review by the governing body, who must hold review meetings at such intervals as they, having regard to the needs of the pupil, consider appropriate, for as long as the requirement remains in effect. Review meetings should take place between the school, parents, the pupil, and other agencies

**Managed Moves** - A managed move is used to initiate a process which leads to the transfer of a pupil to another mainstream school permanently. Managed moves should be voluntary and agreed with all parties involved, including the parents and the admission authority of the new school. If a temporary move needs to occur to improve a pupil's behaviour, then off-site direction (as described above) should be used. Managed moves should only occur when it is in the pupil's best interests.

Where a pupil has an EHC plan, the relevant statutory duties on the new school and local authority will apply. If the current school is contemplating a managed move, it should contact the authority prior to the managed move. If the local authority, both schools and parents are in agreement that there should be a managed move, the local authority will need to follow the statutory procedures for amending a plan.

Managed moves should be offered as part of a planned intervention. The original school should be able to evidence that appropriate initial intervention has been carried out, including, where relevant, multi-agency support, or any statutory assessments were done or explored prior to a managed move.

The managed move should be preceded by information sharing between the original school and the new school, including data on prior and current attainment, academic potential, a risk assessment and advice on effective risk management strategies. It is also important for the new school to ensure that the pupil is provided with an effective integration strategy.

If a parent believes that they are being pressured into a managed move or is unhappy with a managed move, they can take up the issue through the school's formal complaints procedure with the governing board and, where appropriate, the local authority. Within the school inspections framework under leadership and management, Ofsted will consider any evidence found of a parent being pressured into a managed move that has resulted in off-rolling and is likely to judge a school as inadequate on the basis of such evidence.

**Internal On-Site Exclusion** – This is a removal from usual activities but not from the school site, such an exclusion will last up to a full day. An internal exclusion may be the initial part of a fixed term exclusion while the school awaits the collection of the child by parents.

### **Fixed Term Exclusion and Permanent Exclusions**

The following forms of exclusion are available as an ultimate sanction.

- Fixed Term Exclusion – the child is removed from school for set period of time at the discretion of the school.
- Permanent Exclusion – the child is removed from the school roll. This will be preceded by a fixed term exclusion to ensure proper investigation and consideration of events. Parents are also subject to the above conditions, relating to fixed term and permanent exclusion, where the welfare of other members of the school community is threatened by the conduct of a parent. Sanctions applied to a parent may include:
  - On-site - Access to the site and school events is only permitted under certain conditions.
  - Fixed Term - Barring the parent from the site and school events for a fixed period.
  - Permanent – Permanent barring from the school site. Removal of children from the school roll. The school will communicate with the police where it is deemed necessary for the welfare of the community.

The power to exclude a pupil can only be exercised by the Head or Head of School in the absence of the Head, and then only in consultation with the Head. If the Head excludes a pupil, the parents are informed immediately, giving reasons for the exclusion. Legislative changes mean that if a pupil has a social worker, or if a pupil is looked-after, the Headteacher must also without delay after their decision, notify the social worker and/or VSH, as applicable.

The Head will discuss all exclusions with a designated member of the governing body and/or the Chair of Governors. A member of the governing body will monitor exclusions and ensure that the school policy is administered fairly and consistently. Governing Boards will ensure that they review data to consider the level of pupil moves and the characteristics of pupils who have been permanently excluded to ensure the sanction is only used when necessary, as a last resort.

When Headteachers suspend or permanently exclude a pupil, they must also notify the local authority, without delay using the correct forms and procedure. This must be done regardless of the length of a suspension.

Exclusion may be the result of repeated failure to abide by the school's expectations of good conduct, or to respect for its aims and ethos. However, exclusion may also result from a single serious incident, which may include the following: (This is not a definitive list)

- Threatened or committed violence or abusive language against other members of the school community;

- Distribution of illegal drugs
- Bringing into school objects which may cause harm to other members of the community or pornographic literature or images.
- Stealing from the school, a member of staff or a fellow pupil
- Malicious or disruptive behaviour, including open defiance of authority
- Engaging in sustained bullying of other pupils
- Making allegations against a member of the school community which are confirmed to be malicious
- Malicious use of social media

Every pupil has a right to confidentiality during the consideration of a possible exclusion; an investigation will be undertaken in the strictest confidence and the details only disclosed to those who need to know. This does not preclude the conclusion of an investigation being made public to the school community on completion of an investigation, if the person being investigated has been found to be culpable. If the School decides (after completing the investigation or as a result of new evidence and further investigation) that it is necessary to extend a fixed term temporary exclusion or to convert it into a permanent exclusion, the Head will write again to the parent with the reasons for this decision.

Where exclusion has taken place the parents will be notified immediately, followed by a letter. This will detail the following:

- Length of exclusion and whether it is temporary or permanent.
- Reasons for the exclusion.
- Parents' right to make representation to the Governing Body. If they are not satisfied with the Head's decision, stage 3 of the school's complaints procedure (the panel hearing) will be used as a template for an appeal against a permanent exclusion. During an appeal process, an exclusion will remain in place, except at the discretion of the Head.

The child will be given work to do at home for the first five days of any fixed term exclusion.

Headteachers may cancel an exclusion that has not been reviewed by the governing board. This practice is sometimes known as withdrawing/rescinding a suspension or permanent exclusion. If this occurs, parents, the governing board and the local authority should be notified, and if relevant, the social worker and VSH.

The Headteacher may cancel any exclusion that has already begun, but this should only be done where it has not yet been reviewed by the governing board. Where an exclusion is cancelled, then:

- Parents, the governing board, and the LA should be notified without delay and, if relevant, the social worker and VSH;
- Parents should be offered the opportunity to meet with the Headteacher to discuss the circumstances that led to the exclusion being cancelled;
- Schools should report to the governing board once per term on the number of exclusions which have been cancelled. This should include the circumstances and reasons for the cancellation enabling governing boards to have appropriate oversight and;
- The pupil should be allowed back into school.

Pupils being suspended or excluded, whenever appropriate, will be encouraged to be involved in all stages of the process as much as their age and ability to understand allows. This is not obligatory for the pupil should they not wish to participate.

Appendix A shows the clear procedure for an exclusion.

- Telephone number for the Advisory centre for education (ACE) exclusions information line is 0207 704 9822 or [www.ace-ed.org.uk](http://www.ace-ed.org.uk)

Ratified by the Governing Body: September 2023

Reviewed: September 2026

## Appendix A





