

ASHTON GATE PRIMARY SCHOOL



EXCLUSIONS POLICY

It is the policy of Ashton Gate Primary School to try to deal with all behavioural issues in an active, positive way, employing a wide range of strategies, including those specifically designed to avoid such issues reaching the point of exclusion. (See Behaviour Policy).

Purpose of this policy

This policy is designed to briefly outline the school's approach to exclusions within the statutory framework as defined in the *The School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012*. It outlines only where the school applies its own additional guidance and policies, which complement and reinforce the statutory guidance, for purposes of clarity in the day-to-day operation of the school.

Principles

1) Exclusion is a sanction used by the school only in cases deemed as serious breaches of the School Behaviour Policy. A student may be at risk of exclusion from school for:

- Verbal or physical assault of a student or adult;
- Persistent and repetitive disruption of lessons and other students' learning;
- Extreme misbehaviour which is deemed outside the remit of the normal range of sanctions.

2) A Fixed Term Exclusion from the school can only be authorised by the Executive Headteacher or one of the Heads of School acting on their behalf. If none are available to authorise the exclusion a decision should be deferred until the opportunity for authorisation is available.

3) In the case of a Permanent Exclusion this can only be authorised by the Executive Headteacher and must only be done after consulting the Chair of Governors of the intention to impose this sanction, although the final decision rests with the Executive Headteacher of the school.

4) The school seeks to reduce the number of incidents leading to exclusions by promoting a positive atmosphere of mutual respect and discipline within the school.

5) The school regularly monitors the number of Fixed Term Exclusions to ensure that no group of students is unfairly disadvantaged through their use and that any underlying needs of individuals are being fully met.

Notification of an Exclusion

1) Parents/Carers will be notified as soon as possible of the decision to exclude a student and the reason for the exclusion. This will be done on the day of the exclusion being authorised by either

direct phone contact or a face-to-face meeting. A written confirmation of the reason(s) for the exclusion will be sent to parents/carers the same day.

2) In the case of a Permanent Exclusion, parents/carers will be notified by the Executive Headteacher in a face-to-face meeting.

3) A student who has been excluded will have the reason for his/her exclusion explained to them by a member of staff so that they understand the nature of their misbehaviour.

4) The school will also work to put in place a programme for the pupil on his/her return. This will include input from staff at the school, parents/carers if appropriate, and any other appropriate bodies e.g. Education Welfare. Should it be decided for whatever reason that the matter needs to be put in the hands of another agency i.e. the incident leads to the discovery that there is a child protection issue, the school will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with that agency. It is hoped that in most cases following an exclusion, the child will be able to return to school and that further input will promote in him/her a more positive attitude and a subsequent improvement in behaviour.

Students Returning from a Fixed Term Exclusion

Where possible, all students returning from a Fixed Term Exclusion are required to attend a meeting, accompanied by a parent/carer. This meeting will seek to establish practical ways in which further exclusion can be avoided and behaviour modified to acceptable standards in partnership between student, parent/carer and school.

Permanent Exclusions

A school will usually only permanently exclude a child as a last resort, after trying to improve the child's behaviour through other means. However, there are exceptional circumstances in which the Executive Headteacher may decide to permanently exclude a pupil because of ongoing issues or even for a 'one-off' incident.

If your child has been permanently excluded, be aware that:

- the school's governing body is required to review the Executive Headteacher's decision and you may meet with them to explain your views on the exclusion
- if the governing body confirms the exclusion, you can appeal to an independent appeal panel organised by the local authority
- the school must explain in a letter how to lodge an appeal
- the local authority must provide full-time education from the sixth day of a permanent exclusion

Appeals

All correspondence regarding an exclusion from the school will inform parents/carers of their right to appeal to the Governing Body against the decision to exclude. This procedure is clearly set out in the statutory guidance. The person who should be contacted to initiate an appeal is the Clerk to the Governors.

Relationship to other school policies

The Exclusion Policy should be read in tandem with the school's Behaviour Policy as well as other relevant school policies, particularly the Discipline Policy, Special Educational Needs Policy and the Anti-Discrimination and Equality Policy. It also has a close inter-relationship with the Anti-Bullying Policy and Attendance Policy.

Monitoring and Review

The impact of this policy will be reviewed annually by the Local Governing Board. The Executive Headteacher will provide the Board with regular monitoring reports which will help it to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and procedures.

Date: January 2026

Review Date: January 2027