



**Belmont
School**

Exclusion Policy

Exclusion Policy

Introduction

This policy supports Belmont School's mission statement:

"The school intends that every pupil should achieve his potential and develop an understanding of and respect for himself and others"

This policy recognises that it is the Head teacher's responsibility to:

- Promote good behaviour and discipline on the part of the school's pupils
- Secure an orderly and safe environment for pupils and staff

This policy recognises that in order to meet these responsibilities the Head teacher may have to exclude pupils, whether for a fixed term or on a permanent basis, and seeks to clarify the circumstances under which this might take place and the procedures to be followed.

Aim

This policy aims to ensure that the exclusion of pupils will be solely on the basis of safeguarding or health and safety grounds and at all times operates in a fair and reasonable manner

Objectives

The objectives of the policy are to:

- Ensure a shared understanding of the exclusion of pupils
- To identify the circumstances under which a pupil, may be excluded
- To identify the circumstances under a pupil not be excluded
- Ensure a consistent approach to the exclusion of pupils

Implementation

Only the Head teacher or, in his absence, a senior member of staff acting with his authority, can exclude a pupil from school. A decision to exclude a pupil will only be taken:

- If allowing the pupil to remain in the school would seriously harm the welfare of the pupil or others in the school, and
- In the case of a proposed permanent exclusion, with the agreement of the visiting consultant.

The decision to exclude a pupil, whether for a fixed term or permanent, is a serious one. The decision to exclude on a permanent basis is extremely serious and should normally be the final step in the process when the use of a range of strategies has proved unsuccessful.

Permanent Exclusions

In excluding a pupil permanently the school is acknowledging that it has exhausted all available strategies for dealing with that pupil. Hence it should normally be only used as a last resort.

There are, however, circumstances where a pupil may be permanently excluded for a first or one off offence. Permanent exclusion is a last resort, each case will be judged on its own merits and circumstances. These may include:

- Where there has been serious actual violence against another pupil or member of staff
- Sexual misconduct
- Supplying an illegal drug. (This should take account of how far the pupil might have been vulnerable to pressure and / or bullying from peers and/ or others). However, where it is clear that drugs have been supplied for profit or repeated use has taken place on the premises then this constitutes both a serious breach of school rules and a danger to other pupils and as such justifies a permanent exclusion).
- Carrying an offensive weapon

The decision to exclude either permanently or for a fixed term should be based upon;

- A consideration of all the relevant facts and such evidence as may be available to support the allegations made, taking into account the school's behaviour and equal opportunities policies.
- A review of the pupil's version of events
- Checking whether the incident may have been provoked, for example by racial or sexual harassment.
- A consultation with relevant parties

A pupil will not be excluded for:

- Minor incidents such as failure to do homework
- Poor academic performance
- Lateness or truancy
- As a result of the behaviour of parents of his/ her, for example as a result of parental abuse or violence against members of the school community

Once a decision has been made to exclude a pupil the Head teacher is responsible for:

- Deciding the nature of the exclusion either fixed term or permanent
- The period of any fixed term exclusion
- Informing the parents/ carers, in writing, of the period of the exclusion; reasons for exclusion; any arrangements to hold a meeting regarding the exclusion

- Informing the LA, in writing, of the exclusion, the period of the exclusion, reasons for exclusion; any arrangements to hold a meeting regarding the exclusion
- Informing in writing, all parties such as CSCS, where appropriate, of the exclusion, the period of the exclusion, reasons for exclusion; any arrangements to hold a meeting regarding the exclusion
- Making arrangements to ensure the pupil can continue his/ her education at home including the setting and marking of work.

Note:

Where the breaking of school rules has led to the involvement of the police the Head teacher will need to consider the period of any exclusion in terms of:

- How far a return to school whilst investigations are ongoing could affect the effectiveness and outcomes of the investigation
- How far a return to school either during or after ongoing investigations could affect the education of other pupils

Where it is believed that an early return could impact on either (1) or (2) above the pupil should remain at home with the school making arrangements for the pupil's education to continue.

Monitoring and evaluation

The success of the policy will be monitored and evaluated through an annual review of the number of exclusions, their nature and the reason for their imposition.

A list of all exclusions is held on our database