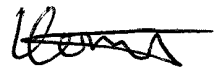




# Fixed Term Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions Policy Beech Hyde Primary School and Nursery



<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	Autumn Term 2022
<b>Review Date:</b>	Autumn Term 2024
<b>Policy Coordinator:</b>	Karen Thomas
<b>Signed: Headteacher</b>	Karen Thomas Headteacher 
<b>Signed: Co-Chairs of Governors</b>	Amy Kenton Sarah Medlock  

## **Rationale**

- To promote an environment where all Pupils can achieve their learning potential through a clear culture of positive behaviour for learning.
- To provide clear high expectations for the whole community to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all.
- Pupils, Staff, Parents and Governors all play a key role in ensuring that behaviour is positive and follows behaviour for learning guidelines.

## **Aims**

Our school aims to ensure that:

- The fixed term suspensions/ permanent exclusions process is applied fairly and consistently
- The fixed term suspensions/ permanent exclusions process is understood by governors, staff, parents and Pupils
- Pupils in school are safe and happy
- All pupils are receiving education

## **Legislation and Statutory Guidance**

This policy is based on statutory guidance from the Department for Education: Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units (PRUs) in England. It is based on the following legislation, which outline schools' powers to suspend for a fixed period/ permanently exclude Pupils:

- Section 52 of the Education Act 2002, as amended by the Education Act 2011
- The School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012 In addition, the policy is based on:
- Part 7, chapter 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, which looks at parental responsibility for suspended/excluded Pupils
- Section 579 of the Education Act 1996, which defines 'school day'
- The Education (Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended by The Education (Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## **The Decision to suspend/exclude**

Only the Head Teacher, or acting Head Teacher, can suspend for a fixed period/ permanently a Pupil from school. A permanent exclusion will be taken as a last resort.

Our school is aware that off-rolling is unlawful. Ofsted defines off-rolling as:

"...the practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without a formal, permanent exclusion or by encouraging a parent to remove their child from the school roll, when the removal is primarily in the interests of the school rather than in the best interests of the pupil."

We are committed to following all statutory fixed term suspensions/ permanent exclusions procedures to ensure that every child receives an education in a safe and caring environment.

A decision to suspend/exclude a Pupil will be taken only:

- In response to serious or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, **and**
- If allowing the Pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others

Before deciding whether to suspend/exclude a Pupil, either permanently or for a fixed period, the Head Teacher will:

- Consider all the relevant facts and evidence, including whether the incident(s) leading to the fixed term suspensions/ permanent exclusions were provoked · Allow the Pupil to give their version of events
- Consider if the Pupil has special educational needs/disability (SEN/D)

### **Definition**

For the purposes of fixed term suspensions/ permanent exclusions, school day is defined as any day on which there is a school session. Therefore, INSET or staff training days do not count as a school day.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

#### **The Head Teacher**

##### **Informing Parents**

The Head Teacher will immediately provide the following information, in writing, to the parents of fixed term suspended/ permanently excluded Pupil:

- The reason(s) for the fixed term suspension/ permanent exclusion
- The length of a fixed-term suspension or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent
- Information about parents' right to make representations about the fixed term suspension/ permanent exclusions to the governing board and how the Pupil may be involved in this
- How any representations should be made
- Where there is a legal requirement for the governing board to meet to consider the reinstatement of a Pupil, and that parents have a right to attend a meeting, be represented at a meeting (at their own expense) and to bring a friend.

The Head Teacher will also notify parents by the end of the afternoon session on the day their child is fixed term suspended/ permanently excluded, that for the first 5 school days of a fixed term suspension/ permanent exclusion, or until the start date of any alternative provision where this is earlier, parents are legally required to ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours without a good reason. Parents may be given a fixed penalty notice or prosecuted if they fail to do this.

If alternative provision is being arranged, the following information will be included when notifying parents of a fixed term suspension/ permanent exclusion:

- The start date for any provision of full-time education that has been arranged
- The start and finish times of any such provision, including the times for morning and afternoon sessions, where relevant.
- The address at which the provision will take place
- Any information required by the pupil-to identify the person they should report to on the first day

Where this information on alternative provision is not reasonably ascertainable by the end of the afternoon session, it may be provided in a subsequent notice, but it will be provided no later than 48 hours before the provision is due to start. The only exception to this is where alternative provision is to be provided before the sixth day of fixed term suspension/ permanent exclusion, in which case the information can be provided with less than 48 hours'

notice with parents' consent.

### **Informing the governing board and local authority**

The Head Teacher will immediately notify the governing board and the local authority (LA) of:

- A permanent exclusion, including when a fixed-period suspension is made permanent
- Fixed term suspensions of any length

The school will use the LA reporting form to do this within 24 hours of the suspension/ exclusion. For a permanent exclusion, if the pupil lives outside the LA in which the school is located, the Head Teacher will also immediately inform the Pupil's 'home authority' of the permanent exclusion and the reason(s) for it without delay.

### **The Governing Board**

Responsibilities regarding fixed term suspensions/ permanent exclusions is delegated to the Governing Body.

The Governing Body has a duty to consider the reinstatement of permanently excluded Pupils. Provision does not have to be arranged for Pupils in the final year of compulsory education who do not have any further public examinations to sit.

### **The LA**

For permanent exclusions, the LA is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education to begin no later than the sixth day of the permanent exclusion.

### **Considering the Reinstatement of a Pupil**

The Governing Body will consider the reinstatement of a fixed term suspended/ permanently excluded Pupil within 15 school days of receiving the notice of the suspension/ exclusion if:

- The exclusion is permanent or
- It is a fixed-term suspension which would bring the Pupil's total number of school days of suspension/ exclusion to more than 15 in a term or
- It would result in a Pupil missing a public examination

If requested to do so by parents, the Governing Body will consider the reinstatement of a suspended/ excluded Pupil within 50 school days of receiving notice of the suspension/ exclusion if the Pupil would be suspended/excluded from school for more than 5 school days, but less than 15, in a single term.

The Headteacher may consider reinstating the pupil/ cancelling the suspension/ exclusion before the governing body meeting. In this instance all parties - parents, governing body, LA, safeguarding partners - will be informed of this decision in writing.

Where a suspension/exclusion would result in a Pupil missing a public examination, the Governing Body will consider the reinstatement of the Pupil before the date of the examination. If this is not practicable, the Governing Body will consider the fixed term suspension/ permanent exclusion and decide whether or not to reinstate the Pupil.

The Governing Body can either:

- Decline to reinstate the Pupil, or
- Direct the reinstatement of the Pupil immediately, or on a particular date

In reaching a decision, the Governing Body will consider whether the fixed term suspension/

permanent exclusion was lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair and whether the Head Teacher followed their legal duties. They will decide whether or not a fact is true 'on the balance of probabilities', which differs from the criminal standard of 'beyond reasonable doubt', as well as any evidence that was presented in relation to the decision to fixed term suspended/ permanently excluded.

Minutes will be taken of the meeting, and a record of evidence considered kept. The outcome will also be recorded on the Pupil's educational record.

The Governing Body will notify, in writing, the Head Teacher, parents and the LA of its decision, along with reasons for its decision, without delay.

Where an exclusion is permanent, the Governing Body's decision will also include the following:

- The fact that it is permanent
- Notice of parents' right to ask for the decision to be reviewed by an independent review panel, and:
- The date by which an application for an independent review must be made
- The name and address to whom an application for a review should be submitted
- That any application should set out the grounds on which it is being made and that, where appropriate, reference to how the Pupil's SEN are relevant to the permanent exclusion
- That, regardless of whether the permanently excluded Pupil has recognised SEN, parents have a right to require the ATLAS Academy Trust to appoint an SEN expert to attend the review
- Details of the role of the SEN expert and that there would be no cost to parents for this appointment
- That parents must make clear if they wish for an SEN expert to be appointed in any application for a review
- That parents may, at their own expense, appoint someone to make written and/or oral representations to the panel, and parents may also bring a friend to the review That if parents believe that the permanent exclusion has occurred as a result of discrimination, they may make a claim under the Equality Act 2010 to the first-tier tribunal (special educational needs and disability), in the case of disability discrimination, or the county court, in the case of other forms of discrimination. A claim of discrimination made under these routes should be lodged within 6 months of the date on which the discrimination is alleged to have taken place.

### **An Independent Review**

If parents apply for an independent review, the ATLAS Academy Trust will arrange for an independent panel to review the decision of the governing board not to reinstate a permanently excluded Pupil.

Applications for an independent review must be made within 15 school days of notice being given to the parents by the Governing Body of its decision to not reinstate a Pupil.

A panel of 3 or 5 members will be constituted with representatives from each of the categories below. Where a 5-member panel is constituted, 2 members will come from the school governor's category and 2 members will come from the Head Teacher category.

- A lay member to chair the panel who has not worked in any school in a paid capacity, disregarding any experience as a school governor or volunteer
- School governors who have served as a governor for at least 12 consecutive months in the last 5 years, provided they have not been teachers or Head Teachers during this time
- Head Teachers or individuals who have been a Head Teacher within the last 5 years · A person

may not serve as a member of a review panel if they:

- Are a Member/Director of the ATLAS Academy Trust, or Governing Board of the excluding school
- Are the Head Teacher of the excluding school, or have held this position in the last 5 years
- Are an employee of the ATLAS Academy Trust or the Governing Board, of the excluding school (unless they are employed as a Head Teacher at another school)
- Have, or at any time have had, any connection with the ATLAS Academy Trust, school, governing board, parents or Pupil, or the incident leading to the permanent exclusion, which might reasonably be taken to raise doubts about their impartiality
- Have not had the required training within the last 2 years (see appendix 1 for what training must cover)

A clerk will be appointed to the panel.

The independent panel will decide one of the following:

- Uphold the governing board's decision
- Recommend that the governing board reconsiders reinstatement
- Quash the governing board's decision and direct that they reconsider reinstatement (only when the decision is judged to be flawed)

The panel's decision can be decided by a majority vote. In the case of a tied decision, the chair has the casting vote.

### **School Registers**

A Pupil's name will be removed from the school admissions register if:

- 15 school days have passed since the parents were notified of the exclusion panel's decision to not reinstate the Pupil and no application has been made for an independent review panel, or
- The parents have stated in writing that they will not be applying for an independent review panel

Where an application for an independent review has been made, the governing board will wait until that review has concluded before removing a Pupil's name from the register.

Where alternative provision has been made for a permanently excluded Pupil and they attend it, code B (education off-site) or code D (dual registration) will be used on the attendance register.

Where permanently excluded Pupils are not attending alternative provision, code E (absent) will be used.

### **Returning from a Fixed-Term Suspension**

Following a fixed-term suspension, a re-integration meeting will be held involving the Pupil, parents, a member of senior staff and other staff, where appropriate.

The following measures may be implemented when a Pupil returns from a fixed-term suspension:

The points below are suggestions only and are not exhaustive or mandatory:

- Agreeing a behaviour contract – a pastoral support plan
- Use of a Pupil daily report to monitor progress
- Restorative practice between the Pupil and other Pupils/ the Pupil and members of staff, if required
- Time with a TA/Mentor to reflect and review
- Gradual re-integration to lessons/social time, if requested by and agreed with parents

- Agreement for internal support
- Referral to and/or signposting to external support agencies, if appropriate
- Regular contact with parents/carers to ensure a partnership approach to improvement

### **Monitoring Arrangements**

The Head monitors the number of fixed term suspensions/ permanent exclusions every term and reports back to the Governors. They also liaise with the local authority to ensure suitable full-time education for fixed term suspended/ permanently excluded Pupils.

### **Links with Other Policies**

This fixed term suspensions/ permanent exclusions policy is linked to our;

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- PLA/CLA Policy
- Equality Policy
- SEND Policy

### **Disposal of fixed term suspension/ permanent exclusion Paperwork following appeal**

All Fixed term suspensions/ permanent exclusions paperwork will be given to the Clerk to the Governors/Hearing Clerk. This information will either be shredded or disposed of via the STAGS confidential waste.

### **Evaluation and monitoring**

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

- At every review, the policy will be shared with the Governing Board.

### **Appendix 1: Independent Review Panel Training**

The ATLAS Academy Trust must ensure that all members of an independent review panel and clerks have received training within the 2 years prior to the date of the review.

Training must have covered:

- The requirements of the primary legislation, regulations and statutory guidance governing fixed term suspensions/ permanent exclusions, which would include an understanding of how the principles applicable in an application for judicial review relate to the panel's decision making
- The need for the panel to observe procedural fairness and the rules of natural justice
- The role of the chair and the clerk of a review panel
- The duties of Head Teachers, Governing Boards and the panel under the Equality Act 2010
- The effect of section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (acts of public authorities unlawful if not compatible with certain human rights) and the need to act in a manner compatible with human rights protected by that Act