



Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy

Good discipline in schools is essential to ensure that all pupils can benefit from the opportunities provided by education. The government supports headteachers in using suspensions and permanent exclusions where they are lawful, reasonable, fair and proportionate. Whilst suspension and permanent exclusion remain important tools for maintaining safe, calm and purposeful learning environments, they should only be used when other behaviour support strategies and interventions have either been unsuccessful or are not appropriate in the circumstances.

Churnet View Middle School is committed to creating a culture in which high standards of behaviour are expected and supported. The school aims to work proactively with pupils, families and external agencies to address behavioural concerns at the earliest opportunity. Permanent exclusion will only be considered as a last resort in response to a serious breach, or persistent breaches, of the school's Behaviour Policy where allowing a pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others.

Internal Suspension

If a pupil is removed from lessons and placed in Internal Suspension, they will continue to access their curriculum and complete work set by subject teachers. During this time, staff will work with the pupil to identify the factors contributing to their behaviour, reflect upon incidents and consider strategies to support future success. The school will ensure that the placement remains proportionate, constructive and focused on reintegration into the classroom.

Managed Moves and Off-Site Direction

In some circumstances, and only where it is in a pupil's best interests, the school may consider a managed move or an off-site direction as part of a planned intervention to support behavioural improvement and reduce the likelihood of suspension or permanent exclusion. Parents, pupils and relevant professionals will be fully involved in discussions, and all arrangements will be clearly documented. Any placement will have agreed objectives, success criteria and review dates. Progress will be monitored regularly and formal review meetings will be held to evaluate the effectiveness of the arrangement and determine next steps. The Local Authority will be notified as required by statutory guidance.

Grounds for Suspension

Before any decision to suspend or permanently exclude is made, the headteacher will consider all relevant circumstances, including the views of the pupil where appropriate, taking account of their age, understanding and individual needs. The headteacher will also

consider any known vulnerabilities, safeguarding concerns, special educational needs, disabilities or other factors that may have contributed to the behaviour.

The following examples may lead to suspension; however, this list is not exhaustive:

- Any incident which poses a significant risk to the safety of pupils, staff or visitors.
- Any incident that may constitute a criminal offence.
- Persistent and severe bullying where appropriate interventions have been implemented and the behaviour continues.
- Verbal abuse, threatening behaviour or physical assault.
- Persistent disruption to learning.
- A single serious incident where the behaviour has caused, or could reasonably have caused, significant harm.
- Continued refusal to comply with the school's Behaviour Policy despite support and intervention.
- Circumstances where the headteacher believes that allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others.

Cancellation of Suspensions or Permanent Exclusions

The headteacher may cancel a suspension or permanent exclusion that has already begun, or one that has not yet started, provided that the governing board has not yet met to consider reinstatement. Where an exclusion is cancelled, the parents, governing board, Local Authority, social worker (where applicable) and Virtual School Head will be informed without delay and provided with the reasons for the decision. The pupil will be permitted to return to school without delay and appropriate support will be put in place to facilitate a successful return.

Factors to Consider Before Excluding a Pupil

When considering a suspension or permanent exclusion, the headteacher will consider the individual circumstances of the case, ensuring that any decision is lawful, reasonable, fair and proportionate. The school recognises that behaviour is often influenced by a range of factors and will carefully consider any information relating to safeguarding, wellbeing, attendance, SEND, mental health, family circumstances or bullying before reaching a decision.

The school is committed to working proactively with parents and external agencies to identify and address emerging concerns. Where appropriate, alternative strategies such as additional pastoral support, targeted interventions, Early Help, off-site direction or managed moves will be explored before permanent exclusion is considered.

Safeguarding Separation Arrangements

There may be exceptional safeguarding circumstances in which a pupil is temporarily prevented from attending the school site to manage an ongoing safeguarding concern. This could include situations where pupils need to be separated whilst investigations are undertaken. Such arrangements do not constitute a suspension or permanent exclusion and will only be used where necessary. Decisions will be made in consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and, where appropriate, external agencies. The school will ensure that suitable educational arrangements are made and that decisions are reviewed regularly.

Duty to Inform the Local Authority

The headteacher will notify the Local Authority without delay of every suspension and permanent exclusion, regardless of the length of the exclusion. Notifications will include the reason for the exclusion and details of its duration. Where appropriate, social workers, Virtual School Heads and other relevant professionals will also be informed promptly.

Reintegration Following Suspension

The school recognises the importance of successful reintegration following a suspension. A reintegration meeting will normally be held before or at the start of a pupil's return to school and will focus on rebuilding relationships, supporting positive behaviour and removing barriers to success.

Where appropriate, a personalised reintegration plan may be developed. This could include regular check-ins with a trusted adult, mentoring, behaviour targets, pastoral interventions, support from external agencies, curriculum adjustments or enhanced communication with parents. The aim of reintegration is to ensure that pupils feel supported, valued and able to engage positively with school life moving forward.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Board, or sooner if changes in legislation, statutory guidance or local circumstances necessitate revision.