



## The Weston Federation Exclusions Policy



### Rationale

This document deals with the policy and practice which informs the School's use of exclusion. It is underpinned by the shared commitment of all members of the school community to achieve two important aims; to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community and to maintain an appropriate educational and happy environment in which all pupils can learn and succeed.

### Introduction

Only the Head of School with the support of the Executive Head can take the decision to exclude a pupil. Before any decision to exclude a pupil is made, witness statements from all parties will be gathered and recorded in the SLT safeguarding diary.

The decision to exclude a pupil will be taken in the following circumstances:-

- in response to a serious breach of the School's Pupil Behaviour Policy .
- If allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.

This in line with Department for Education Guidance.

### **The law allows for two types of exclusion:**

#### **Fixed term exclusions**

If a pupil has seriously broken school rules or allowing them to stay in school would seriously harm their education or welfare, or the education or welfare of other pupils, they may be excluded for a fixed period of time (usually for one to five days), with a date set of when they can return to school.

Examples of this behaviour may include:

- Verbal and/or physical abuse to staff, pupils and/or members of the school community
- Indecent behaviour
- Damage to property
- Theft
- Threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff
- Unacceptable behaviour which has previously been reported and for which school sanctions and other interventions have not been successful.

A pupil may be excluded for one or more fixed periods, up to a maximum of 45 days in a single academic year.

For a fixed period exclusion of more than 5 school days, a reintegration plan will be drawn up. This needs to be agreed with the school, pupil and parents. A reduced timetable may be used to support the pupil's successful reintegration into school. This will be agreed between parents and school and will outline the roles and responsibilities of all parties.

Where the pupil is to be at home during a fixed term exclusion, parents are advised that the pupil is not allowed on the school premises, and that daytime supervision is their responsibility as parents/guardians.

Following exclusion parents are contacted immediately where possible. A letter will be given directly to parents giving details of the exclusion and the date the exclusion ends. If a parent or carer wishes to discuss this letter with the Head of School or Executive Head they are welcome to make such an appointment via the school office.

A return to school meeting will be held following the expiry of the fixed term exclusion and this will involve the Head of School and other staff members where appropriate.

Appropriate work will be set for the pupil for the duration of the exclusion. It is the parent's responsibility to collect and return this work.

### **Permanent Exclusion**

The decision to exclude a pupil permanently is a serious one. If necessary, a series of fixed term exclusions can be made to allow time for all options to be explored and for an emergency review to be arranged.

There are two instances where permanent exclusion may be considered:

- The first is a final, formal step in a concerted process for dealing with disciplinary offences following the use of a wide range of other strategies, which have been used without success. It is an acknowledgement all available strategies have been exhausted and is used as a last resort. This would include persistent, repeated and defiant misbehaviour as listed in the examples in the above 'fixed period' section.

- The second is where there are exceptional circumstances and it is not appropriate to implement other strategies and where it could be appropriate to permanently exclude a pupil for a first or 'one off' offence. Such an offence might include a serious act of physical violence against a member of staff, pupil or member of the school community.

If the school feels that police involvement is necessary for specific and serious offences, this will be considered by the Executive Head, Head of School and all parties involved.

Parents or carers will be notified of the exclusion immediately and will receive further details of reasons for the exclusion in writing.

Appropriate work will be set for the pupil for the first 5 day of the exclusion. It is the parent's responsibility to collect and return this work. The Local Authority has a duty to provide alternative provision from the sixth day of the exclusion.

### **Discipline and physical contact**

Teachers cannot and will not punish pupils physically, but can physically restrain pupils using reasonable force where it's necessary to stop a pupil injuring him or herself or someone else, damaging property or causing serious disruption. (Department for Education Use of Reasonable Force 2013)

### **Further Information**

Exclusion will not be imposed instantly unless there is an immediate threat to the safety of others in the school or the pupil concerned.

The Executive Head must notify the Governing Body and the Local Authority of a permanent exclusion, exclusions exceeding more than 5 days in a term and/or when it will result in the pupils missing a NC Test. For all other exclusions the Executive Head must notify the Governing Body and Local Authority once a term.

The Governing Body has a duty to consider parents' representations about an exclusion.

-The Governing Body may delegate their functions with respect to the consideration of an exclusion decision to a designated sub-committee consisting of at least 3 governors.

- The Governing Body must consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil within 15 days of receiving the notice of the exclusion.
- If requested by the parents, the Governing Body must consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil within 50 school days of receiving notice of the exclusion if a pupil would be excluded from school for more than 5 school days, but not more than 15 in a single term.

**Would we like something in here about setting and marking of work and LA 6<sup>th</sup> day provision?**

**Date of next review September 2019**