POOL HOUSE C P SCHOOL

Exclusion Policy

At Pool House Community Primary School the decision to exclude a pupil, either for a fixed period or permanently, is never taken lightly and is seen as a last resort by the school.

The school is responsible for communicating to pupils, parents, carers and staff its expectations of good behaviour and standards of conduct. A range of policies and procedures are in place to promote good behaviour and conduct.

No exclusion will be initiated without first exhausting other strategies, or in the case of a serious single incident, without a thorough investigation.

Reasons for exclusion may include:

* serious breach of the school's rules or policies
* risk of harm to the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the School

An exclusion can only be sanctioned by the Headteacher or their nominated Deputy.

Temporary Exclusion

A temporary exclusion will be for the shortest time necessary, usually between 1 and 3 days, sufficient to secure benefits without adverse educational consequences for the child.

Persistent or cumulative problems

Exclusion for a period of time from 1 to 5 days for persistent or cumulative problems would be imposed only when the school had already offered and implemented a range of support and management strategies. These could include:

- discussion with the pupil
- reward/sticker chart
- discussion with parents
- target setting
- checking on possible provocation
- internal exclusion
- mentoring

Exclusion will not be used for minor incidents except where these are persistent and defiant.

Single Incident

Temporary exclusion may be used in response to a serious breach of school rules and policies or a disciplinary offence.
In such cases the head will investigate the incident thoroughly and consider all evidence to support the allegation, taking account of the school's policies. The pupil will be encouraged to give his/her version of events and the Head will check whether the incident may have been provoked, for example by bullying or racial harassment.

Permanent Exclusion

As with a temporary exclusion, this will follow a range of strategies and be seen as a last resort, or it will be in response to a very serious breach of school rules and policies or a disciplinary offence such as:

- Possession or use of an illegal drug on school premises
- Carrying an offensive weapon
- Persistent bullying
- Racial harassment
- Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or staff member

The decision to exclude

If the Headteacher decides to exclude a pupil she will:

- ensure that there is recorded evidence
- explain the decision to the pupil
- contact the parents or carers, explain the decision and ask them to collect the child
- send a letter to the parents/carers confirming he reasons for the exclusion, whether it is permanent or temporary, the length of the exclusion and any terms or conditions agreed for the pupil's return
- in cases of more than a day's exclusion, ensure that appropriate work is set and that arrangements are in place for it to be marked
- in cases of more than 5 days exclusion, explain the school's arrangements for the continuation of the child's education in another setting
- plan how to address the pupil's needs on their return
- plan a meeting with parents and pupil on his/her return

As exclusion should not be enforced if in doing do the safety of the pupil is compromised. I cases where the parent/carer will not comply, for example refusing to collect the child, the child's welfare is the priority.

Behaviour outside school

Pupil's behaviour outside school on school business eg on school trips, is subject to the school behaviour policy. Bad behaviour in such circumstances will be dealt with as if it had taken place in school.

For behaviour outside the school, not on school business, the Headteacher may decide to exclude a pupil if there is a clear link between the behaviour and maintaining good behaviour and discipline among the pupil body as a whole, or of it is deemed to be damaging to the reputation of the school.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities

The school must take into account any special educational needs when considering whether or not to exclude a pupil. We have a legal duty under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended not to discriminate against disabled pupils by excluding them from school for behaviour related to their disability. The Headteacher should ensure that reasonable steps have been taken by the school to respond to a pupil's disability so the pupil is not treated less favourably for reasons related to the disability.
'Reasonable steps' could include

- differentiation in the school's behaviour policy
- developing strategies to prevent the pupil's behaviour
- requesting external help with the pupil
- staff training

Where reasonable adjustments to policies and practices have been made to accommodate a pupil's needs and to avoid the necessity for exclusion as far as possible, exclusion may be justified if there is a material and substantial reason for it. A specific incident affecting order and discipline in the school may be such a reason.

Removal from the school for other reasons

The head may send a pupil home, after consultation with the pupil's parents, if the pupil poses an immediate and serious risk to the health and safety of other pupils and staff, for example because of the diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of an illness such as a notifiable disease. This is not an exclusion.

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