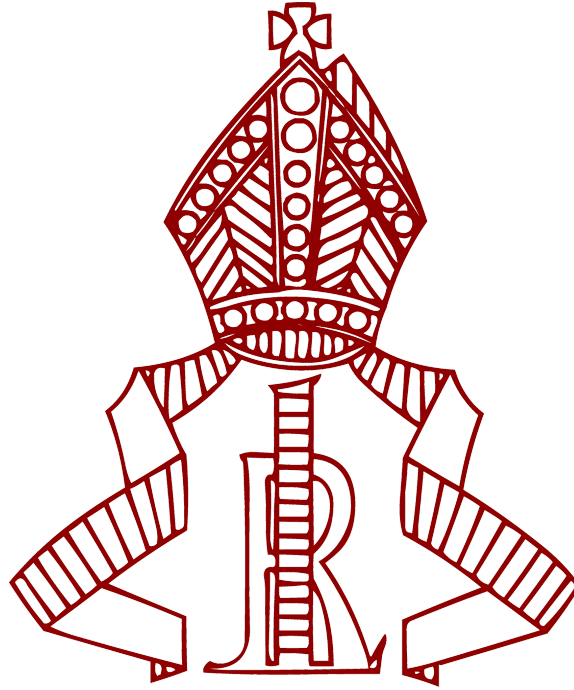




Bishop Luffa School

Suspension & Permanent Exclusion Policy

Approved by:

Chair of Governors

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1. Aims

Our Vision as a school comes from John 10:10: 'I came so that you can have life - life in all its fullness'. Our aim is to show every child what 'life in all its fullness' means, so that they build strong foundations for their adult lives.

Our Values are expressed in our school motto: 'always our best because everyone matters'. Jesus told us 'love each other as I have loved you' (John 15:12). We want all of our students to know that they are loved and to treat other people and the world around them with love and respect.

When we make the decision to suspend or permanently exclude a student, we commit to having these principles at the heart of our decision making. Suspension and permanent exclusion must always be used to help a student focus on their choices and the possible consequences of those choices once they are an adult. Suspensions should always be accompanied by support for the student and their family. Permanent exclusions should always be a last resort.

We are committed to following all statutory exclusions procedures to make sure that every child receives an education in a safe and caring environment.

Our school aims to:

- Make sure that the exclusions process is applied fairly and consistently
- Help governors, staff, parents/carers and students understand the exclusions process
- Make sure that students in school are safe and happy
- Prevent students from becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training)
- Make sure all suspensions and permanent exclusions are carried out lawfully

We commit never to:

- Remove a student from the school admission register without a formal, permanent exclusion, or
- Encourage a parent/carers to remove their child from the school, or
- Encourage a Sixth Form student not to continue with their course of study, or
- Retain a student on the school admission register but not allow them to attend the school normally, without a formal permanent exclusion or suspension, or
- Move a student to alternative provision (AP) where this is not in their best interests, or
- Send a student home without formally recording a suspension regardless of whether it occurs with the agreement of parents/carers, or
- Place a student on a part-time timetable when this is not in their best interests, or
- Remove a student from the school roll without following due process.

Accordingly, we will not suspend or permanently exclude a student unlawfully by telling or forcing them to leave, encouraging their parent(s)/carer(s) to remove them from the school, or not allowing them to attend school without following the statutory procedure contained in the [School Discipline \(Student Exclusions and Reviews\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#), or formally recording the event.

Any suspension or exclusion will be made on disciplinary grounds, and will not be made:

- Because a student has special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND) that the school feels unable to support, or
- Due to a student's poor academic performance.

If any student is suspended or permanently excluded on the above grounds, this would be considered to be 'off-rolling' and, as such, is unlawful.

2. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy is based on statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE): [Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and student referral units in England, including student movement](#).

It is based on the following legislation, which outlines schools' powers to suspend and permanently exclude students:

- Section 51a of the Education Act 2002, as amended by the Education Act 2011
- The School Discipline (Student 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 sets out parental responsibility for excluded students
- Section 579 of the [Education Act 1996](#), which defines 'school day'
- The [Education \(Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Students\) \(England\) Regulations 2007](#), as amended by [The Education \(Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Students\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#) and as modified and amended by [The Education \(Educational Provision for Improving Behaviour\) \(Application to Academies and Student Referral Units and Minor Amendments\) Regulations 2026](#).
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Children and Families Act 2014](#)
- The [Inspection information for state-funded schools](#), which defines 'off-rolling'

As an academy, Bishop Luffa School has to comply with our funding agreement and articles of association, and with statutory regulations applying to academies in relation to exclusions and off-site direction. This policy meets all of those requirements.

3. Definitions

Suspension – when a student is removed from the school for a fixed period. This was previously referred to as a 'fixed-term exclusion'.

Permanent exclusion – when a student is removed from the school permanently and taken off the school admission register.

Off-site direction – when a governing board of a maintained school, academy or PRU requires a student to attend another education setting temporarily, to improve their behaviour.

Parent/carer – any person who has parental responsibility and any person who has care of the child.

Cancelled exclusion – an exclusion that has been cancelled before the governing board has met to consider whether the student should be reinstated.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The Head Teacher

Deciding whether to suspend or permanently exclude

Only the Head Teacher, or acting Head Teacher, can suspend or permanently exclude a student from school on disciplinary grounds. The decision can be made in respect of behaviour inside or outside of school. The Head Teacher will only use permanent exclusion as a last resort.

A decision to suspend a student will be taken only:

- In accordance with the school's behaviour policy
- To provide a clear signal of what is unacceptable behaviour
- To show a student that their current behaviour is putting them at risk of permanent exclusion

If a student is being suspended for a second time, the Head Teacher will consider whether suspensions alone are an effective sanction and whether additional strategies to support that student need to be put in place.

A decision to permanently exclude a student will be taken only:

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

Before deciding whether to suspend or permanently exclude a student, the Head Teacher will:

- Consider all the relevant facts and evidence on the balance of probabilities
- Allow the student to give their version of events, considering these in light of their age and understanding
- Consider whether the student has special educational needs (SEN), whether those needs are being properly managed in school and the impact this might have had on the student's actions
- Consider whether the student is especially vulnerable (e.g. the student has a social worker, or is a looked-after child (LAC) or a previously looked-after child)
- Consider whether all alternative solutions have been explored, such as:
 - For suspensions: detentions or other sanctions provided for in the behaviour policy
 - For exclusions: off-site direction (for temporary placements) or enhanced provision

When considering off-site direction, the school complies with the Education (Educational Provision for Improving Behaviour) (Application to Academies and Student Referral Units and Minor Amendments) Regulations 2026, and has regard to the Arranging Alternative Provision: a Guide for Local Authorities and Schools.

Before directing a student off-site, the school will:

- Ensure the student's views are sought and considered
- Be able to evidence that appropriate interventions have already been implemented
- Share relevant information with the receiving setting and the local authority (LA), including attainment data, risk assessments and support strategies

Where direction off-site is being considered for a student with a social worker, the school will inform, at the earliest opportunity:

- The social worker
- The DSL
- Parents/carers (unless this would create a safeguarding risk)
- For looked after children: the virtual school head (VSH)

The Head Teacher will consider the views of the student, in light of their age and understanding, before deciding to suspend or permanently exclude. Students who need support to express their views will be allowed to have their views expressed through an advocate, such as a parent/carer or social worker.

Where there are concerns about the behaviour, or risk of suspension or permanent exclusion, of a student with SEN, a disability or an education, health and care (EHC) plan, the school will, in partnership with others (including where relevant, the LA), consider what additional support or alternative placement may be required. This will involve assessing the suitability of provision for the student's SEN or disability.

Where a student has an EHC plan, the school will contact the LA about any behavioural concerns at an early stage and consider requesting an early annual review prior to making the decision to suspend or permanently exclude the student.

If there is an ongoing safeguarding investigation (whether that includes a criminal investigation or not) that may result in the permanent exclusion of a student, or if a student has been reinstated to the school, it is likely that complex and difficult decisions will need to be made. These decisions will be made alongside the school's safeguarding duties and its duty to provide an education.

Deciding whether to temporarily remove a student from the school site for safeguarding reasons

In exceptional circumstances, the Head Teacher may decide to temporarily prevent a student from attending the school site for safeguarding reasons. This is not an exclusion on disciplinary grounds.

This measure will only be used when:

- It is necessary to separate students to ensure safety, and
- There is no reasonable alternative that would allow all students to remain on site

Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, led by the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and informed by multi-agency working where appropriate (e.g. children's social care or the police).

Where this measure is used, the school will:

- Inform parents/carers without delay, including the reasons for the decision
- Notify the governing board without delay
- Provide work for the student to complete at home, or work with the LA to ensure suitable education is arranged
- Support the student's reintegration, as soon as it is safe to do so

Informing parents/carers (or the student where they are 18 or older)

If a student is at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion, the Head Teacher will inform the parents/carers/student as early as possible, in order to work together to consider what factors may be affecting the student's behaviour, and what further support can be put in place to improve the behaviour.

If the Head Teacher decides to suspend or permanently exclude a student, the parents/carers/student will be informed, in person or by telephone, of the period of the suspension or exclusion and the reason(s) for it, without delay.

The parents/carers/student will also be provided with the following information in writing, without delay:

- The reason(s) for the suspension or permanent exclusion
- The length of the suspension or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent
- Information about the parents'/carers'/student's right to make representations about the suspension or permanent exclusion to the governing board and, where the student is attending alongside parents/carers, how they may be involved in this
- How any representations should be made
- Where there is a legal requirement for the governing board to hold a meeting to consider the reinstatement of a student, and that parents/carers/the student have a right to attend the meeting, be represented at the meeting (at their own expense) and bring a friend (and, where appropriate, more than 1, subject to reasonable limits set by the governing board)
- That parents/carers/the student have the right to request that the meetings be held remotely, and how and to whom they should make this request

If the student is of compulsory school age, the Head Teacher will also notify parents/carers without delay and by the end of the afternoon session on the first day their child is suspended or permanently excluded, that:

- For the first 5 school days of the suspension or exclusion (or until the start date of any alternative provision or the end of the suspension, where this is earlier), the parents/carers are legally required to ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours without a good reason. This will include specifying on which days this duty applies
- Parents/carers may be given a fixed penalty notice or prosecuted if they fail to do this

If alternative provision is being arranged to improve behaviour, the written notification will include:

- The start date for any provision of full-time education that has been arranged
- The address at which the provision will take place
- The name of the person the student should report to on arrival
- The duration of the placement
- The reasons for, and objectives of, the placement
- The start and finish times of any such provision
- Where 2 sessions per day are provided:
 - What time the morning sessions starts
 - What time the afternoon session ends
 - What time the break between them starts and ends
- Where a single session per day is provided:
 - What time the session starts and ends

If the Head Teacher does not have all the information about the alternative provision arrangements by the end of the afternoon session on the first day of the suspension or permanent exclusion, they can provide the information at a later date, without delay and 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 a suspension or permanent exclusion, in which case the school reserves the right to provide the information with less than 48 hours' notice, with parents'/carers' consent.

If the Head Teacher cancels the suspension or permanent exclusion, they will notify the parents/carers/student without delay, and provide a reason for the cancellation.

Informing the governing board

The Head Teacher will, without delay, notify the governing board of:

- Any permanent exclusion, including when a suspension is followed by a decision to permanently exclude a student
- Any suspension or permanent exclusion that would result in the student being suspended or permanently excluded for a total of more than 5 school days (or more than 10 lunchtimes) in a term
- Any suspension or permanent exclusion that would result in the student missing a National Curriculum test or public exam
- Any suspension or permanent exclusion that has been cancelled, including the reason for the cancellation

Informing the local authority (LA)

The Head Teacher will notify the LA of all suspensions and permanent exclusions without delay, regardless of the length of a suspension.

The notification will include:

- The reason(s) for the suspension or permanent exclusion
- The length of a suspension or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent

For a permanent exclusion, if the student lives outside the LA in which the school is located, the Head Teacher will also, without delay, inform the student's 'home authority' of the exclusion and the reason(s) for it.

The Head Teacher must notify the LA without delay of any cancelled exclusions, including the reason the exclusion was cancelled.

Informing the student's social worker and/or virtual school head (VSH)

If a:

- **Student with a social worker** is at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion, the Head Teacher will inform **the social worker** as early as possible
- **Student who is a looked-after child (LAC)** is at risk of suspension or exclusion, the Head Teacher will inform **the VSH** as early as possible

This is so they can work together to consider what factors may be affecting the student's behaviour, and what further support can be put in place to improve the behaviour.

Where a looked-after child is at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion, the school will consider:

- How effectively the current personal education plan (PEP) is being implemented, and
- Whether an interim review of the PEP needs to take place
- How the school is using Student Premium Plus

If the Head Teacher decides to suspend or permanently exclude a student with a social worker/a student who is looked after, they will inform the student's social worker/the VSH, as appropriate, without delay, that:

- They have decided to suspend or permanently exclude the student
- The reason(s) for the decision
- The length of the suspension or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent
- The suspension or permanent exclusion affects the student's ability to sit a National Curriculum test or public exam (where relevant)
- They have decided to cancel a suspension or permanent exclusion, and why (where relevant)

The social worker/VSH will be invited to any meeting of the governing board about the suspension or permanent exclusion. This is so they can provide advice on how the student's background and/or circumstances may have influenced the circumstances of their suspension or permanent exclusion. The social worker should also help ensure safeguarding needs and risks, and the student's welfare are taken into account.

Cancelling suspensions and permanent exclusions

The Head Teacher may cancel a suspension or permanent exclusion that has already begun, or one that has not yet begun, but only where it has not yet been reviewed by the governing board. Where there is a cancellation:

- The parents/carers (or the student if they are 18 or older), governing board and LA will be notified without delay
- Where relevant, any social worker and VSH will be notified without delay
- The notification must provide the reason for the cancellation
- The governing board's duty to hold a meeting and consider reinstatement ceases
- Parents/carers (or student if they are 18 or older) will be offered the opportunity to meet with the Head Teacher to discuss the cancellation, which will be arranged without delay
- The student will be allowed back in school without delay

Any days spent out of school as a result of any exclusion, prior to the cancellation, will count towards the maximum of 45 school days permitted in any school year.

A permanent exclusion cannot be cancelled if the student has already been excluded for more than 45 school days in a school year or if they will have been so by the time the cancellation takes effect.

Providing education during the first 5 days of a suspension or exclusion

If the student is not attending alternative (AP) provision, the Head Teacher will take steps to ensure that achievable and accessible work is set and marked for the student. Online pathways such as Google Classroom may be used for this. If the student has a special educational need or disability (SEND), the Head Teacher will make sure that reasonable adjustments are made to the provision where necessary.

If the student is looked after or if they have a social worker, the school will work with the LA to arrange AP from the first day following the suspension or permanent exclusion. Where this isn't possible, the school will take reasonable steps to set and mark work for the student, including the use of online pathways.

4.2 The governing board

Considering suspensions and permanent exclusions

Bishop Luffa School is part of the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership. The Trust has overall responsibility for the provision of education at Bishop Luffa School, but has delegated responsibilities regarding exclusions to the Local Governing Body (LGB).

The LGB has a duty to consider parents'/carers'/the student's (if they are 18 or older) representations about a suspension or permanent exclusion. It has a duty to consider the reinstatement of a suspended or permanently excluded student (see sections 5 and 6) in certain circumstances.

Within 14 days of receiving a request, the LGB will provide the secretary of state with information about any suspensions or exclusions within the last 12 months.

For any suspension of more than 5 school days, the LGB will ensure that suitable full-time education is provided for the student. This provision will begin no later than the sixth day of the suspension.

The LGB does not have to arrange such provision for students in their final year of compulsory education who do not have any further public exams to sit.

Monitoring and analysing suspensions and exclusions data

The LGB will review, challenge and evaluate the data on the school's use of suspension, exclusion, off-site direction to alternative provision, and managed moves. The LGB will:

- Closely scrutinise patterns of all student movement, including suspensions, permanent exclusions, off-site direction and managed moves
- Ensure these measures are only used as a last resort
- Review any use of separation from site for safeguarding purposes
- Challenge the school's leadership team to identify and address emerging trends

The governing board will consider:

- How effectively and consistently the school's behaviour policy is being implemented
- The school register and absence codes, to ensure that students are not being disadvantaged
- Instances where students receive repeat suspensions
- Interventions in place to support students at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion
- Any variations in the rolling average of permanent exclusions, to understand why this is happening, and to make sure they are only used when necessary
- The timing of moves and permanent exclusions, and whether there are any patterns, including any indications that may highlight where policies or support are not working
- The characteristics of suspended and permanently excluded students, and whether students who share any particular characteristic are suspended or permanently excluded more than others
- Whether the placements of students directed off-site into alternative provision are reviewed at sufficient intervals to assure the school that the education is achieving its objectives and that students are benefiting from it
- The use of enhanced provision for students who have been suspended or are at risk of permanent exclusion
- The cost implications of directing students off-site

Performance data and benchmarking:

Governors will hold leaders to account and make informed decisions. To enable them to do so, they'll make use of performance data in the following areas:

- Student numbers, attendance and exclusions
- Attainment and progress
- Curriculum planning and class sizes
- Financial management and governance

- Quality assurance
- Safeguarding and wellbeing
- The school community, including staff, students, parents/carers and the governing board

4.3 The local authority (LA)

For permanent exclusions, the LA will arrange suitable full-time education to begin no later than the sixth school day after the first day of the exclusion.

For students who are looked after or have social workers, the LA and the school will work together to arrange suitable full-time education to begin from the first day of the exclusion.

5. Considering the reinstatement of a student

The LGB will consider and decide on the reinstatement of a suspended or permanently excluded student within 15 school days of receiving the notice of the suspension or exclusion if:

- The exclusion is permanent
- It is a suspension that would bring the student's total number of days out of school to more than 15 in a term; or
- It would result in a student missing a public exam or National Curriculum test

Where the student has been suspended, and the suspension does not bring the student's total number of days of suspension to more than 5 in a term, the LGB must consider any representations made by parents/carers/the student (if they are 18 or older). However, it is not required to arrange a meeting with parents/carers/the student and it cannot direct the Head Teacher to reinstate the student.

Where the student has been suspended for more than 5, but not more than 15 school days, in a single term, and the parents/carers/student make representations to the board, the LGB will consider and decide on the reinstatement of a suspended student within 50 school days of receiving notice of the suspension. If the parents/carers/student do not make representations, the board is not required to meet and it cannot direct the Head Teacher to reinstate the student.

Students should not miss a national exam as a result of suspension or permanent exclusion. The Head Teacher will make alternative arrangements for the student to sit the exam. If the LGB do not think that the arrangements are adequate, then they can consider reinstatement.

When reinstatement is being considered, the following parties will be invited to a meeting of the LGB and allowed to make representations or share information:

- Parents/carers, or the student if they are 18 or older (and, where requested, a representative or friend, and where appropriate, more than 1, subject to reasonable limits set by the governing board)
- The student, if they are aged 17 or younger and it would be appropriate to their age and understanding (and, where requested, a representative or friend)
- The Head Teacher
- The student's social worker, if they have one

- The VSH, if the student is looked after

The meeting can be held remotely at the request of parents/carers, or students if they are 18 or older. See section 9 for more details on remote access to meetings.

The LGB will try to arrange the meeting within the statutory time limits set out above and must try to have it at a time that suits all relevant parties. However, its decision will not be invalid simply on the grounds that it was not made within these time limits.

The LGB can either:

- Decline to reinstate the student, or
- Direct the reinstatement of the student immediately, or on a particular date (except in cases where the board cannot do this – see earlier in this section)

In reaching a decision, the LGB will consider:

- Whether the decision to suspend or permanently exclude was lawful, reasonable, and procedurally fair
- Whether the Head Teacher followed their legal duties
- The welfare and safeguarding of the student and their peers
- Any evidence that was presented to the governing board

They will decide whether or not a fact is true ‘on the balance of probabilities’.

The clerk/governance professional will be present when the decision is made.

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and a record kept of the evidence that was considered. The outcome will also be recorded on the student’s educational record and copies of relevant papers will be kept with this record.

The LGB will notify, in writing, the following stakeholders of its decision, along with reasons for its decision, without delay:

- The parents/carers, or the student if they are 18 or older
- The Head Teacher
- The student’s social worker, if they have one
- The VSH, if the student is looked after
- The local authority
- The student’s home authority, if it differs from the school’s

Where an exclusion is permanent and the LGB has decided not to reinstate the student, the notification of decision will also include the following:

- The fact that it is a permanent exclusion

- Notice of parents'/carers'/the student's (if they are 18 or older) right to ask for the decision to be reviewed by an independent review panel
- The date by which an application for an independent review must be made (15 school days from the date on which notice in writing of the governing board's decision is given to parents/carers)
- The name and address to which an application for a review and any written evidence should be submitted
- That any application should set out the grounds on which it is being made and that, where appropriate, it should include reference to how the student's special educational needs (SEN) are considered to be relevant to the permanent exclusion
- That, regardless of whether the excluded student has recognised SEN, parents/carers/the student have a right to require the Trust to appoint an SEN expert to advise the review panel
- Details of the role of the SEN expert and that there would be no cost to parents/carers/the student for this appointment
- That parents/carers/the student must make clear if they wish for an SEN expert to be appointed in any application for a review
- That parents/carers/the student may, at their own expense, appoint someone to make written and/or oral representations to the panel
- That, if parents/carers/the student believe that the permanent exclusion has occurred as a result of unlawful 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. Also, that any 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

6. Independent review

If parents/carers/the student (if they are 18 or older) apply for an independent review within the legal timeframe, Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership will, at its own expense, arrange for an independent panel to review the decision of the LGB not to reinstate a permanently excluded student.

Applications for an independent review must be made within 15 school days of notice being given to the parents/carers/student by the LGB of its decision to not reinstate the student **or**, if after this time, within 15 school days of the final determination of a claim of discrimination under the Equality Act 2010 regarding the permanent exclusion. Any applications made outside of this timeframe will be rejected.

Independent reviews can be held remotely at the request of parents/carers/the student. See section 9 for more details on remote access to meetings.

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 category and 2 members will come from the Head Teacher category. At all times during the review process there must be the required representation on the panel.

- 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

- Current or former 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 of the academy trust 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 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 academy trust, school, governing board, parents/carers or student, or the incident leading to the 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)

The panel must consider the interests and circumstances of the student, including the circumstances in which the student was permanently excluded, and have regard to the interests of other students and people working at the school.

Taking into account the student's age and understanding, the student or their parents/carers will be made aware of their right to attend and participate in the review meeting and the student should be enabled to make representations on their own behalf, should they desire to.

Where a SEN expert is present, the panel must seek and have regard to the SEN expert's view of how SEN may be relevant to the student's permanent exclusion.

Where a social worker is present, the panel must have regard to any representation made by the social worker of how the student's experiences, needs, safeguarding risks and/or welfare may be relevant to the student's permanent exclusion.

Where a VSH is present, the panel must have regard to any representation made by the VSH of how any of the child's background, education and safeguarding needs were considered by the Head Teacher in the lead up to the permanent exclusion, or are relevant to the student's permanent exclusion.

Following its review, the independent panel will decide to do one of the following:

- Uphold the LGB's decision
- Recommend that the LGB reconsiders reinstatement
- Quash the LGB's decision and direct that they reconsider reinstatement (only if it judges that the decision was flawed based on the relevant principles)

New evidence may be presented, though the school cannot introduce new reasons for the permanent exclusion or the decision not to reinstate. The panel must disregard any new reasons that are introduced. In deciding whether the decision was flawed, and therefore whether to quash the decision not to reinstate, the panel must only take account of the evidence that was available to the LGB at the time of making its decision. This includes any evidence that the panel considers would, or should, have been available to the LGB and that it ought to have considered if it had been acting reasonably.

If evidence is presented that the panel considers it is unreasonable to expect the governing board to have been aware of at the time of its decision, the panel can take account of the evidence when deciding whether to recommend that the governing board reconsider reinstatement.

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

Once the panel has reached its decision, the panel will notify all parties in writing without delay.

This notification will include:

- The panel's decision and the reasons for it
- Where relevant, details of any financial readjustment or payment to be made if the LGB does not subsequently decide to offer to reinstate the student within 10 school days
- Any information that the panel has directed the LGB to place on the student's educational record

7. School registers

A student's name will be removed from the school admission register if:

- 15 school days have passed since the parents/carers/student (if they are 18 or older) were notified of the LGB's decision to not reinstate the student, and no application has been made for an independent review panel, or
- The parents/carers/student 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 within 15 school days, the LGB will wait until that review has concluded before removing a student's name from the register.

While the student's name remains on the school's admission register, the student's attendance will still be recorded appropriately. Where alternative provision (of an approved educational activity that does not involve the student being registered at any other school) has been made for an excluded student and they attend it, code B (education off-site) will be used on the attendance register. During off-site direction to another school or educational establishment, code D (dual registration) will be used.

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

A student will be registered at one school only. Where a student attends off-site provision, the original school retains responsibility for the student's registration unless and until a permanent move is agreed.

Making a return to the LA

Where a student's name is to be removed from the school admissions register because of a permanent exclusion, the school will make a return to the LA. The return will include:

- The student's full name and address
- The full name and address of any parent/carer with whom the student normally resides
- At least 1 telephone number at which any parent/carer with whom the student normally resides can be contacted in an emergency

- The grounds upon which their name is to be deleted from the admissions register (i.e. permanent exclusion)
- Details of the new school the student will attend, including the name of that school and the first date when the student attended or is due to attend there, if the parents/carers have told the school the student is moving to another school
- Details of the student's new address, including the new address, the name of the parent/carer(s) the student is going to live there with, and the date when the student is going to start living there, if the parents/carers have informed the school that the student is moving house

This return must be made as soon as the grounds for removal is met and no later than the removal of the student's name.

8. Returning from a suspension, off-site direction or separation for safeguarding purposes

8.1 Reintegration strategy

Following suspension, period of off-site direction, separation for safeguarding purposes, or cancelled suspension or exclusion, the school will put in place a strategy to help the student reintegrate successfully into school life and full-time education.

Where necessary, the school will work with third-party organisations to identify whether the student has any unmet special educational and/or health needs.

The following measures may be implemented, as part of the strategy, to ensure a successful reintegration into school life for the student:

- Maintaining contact during the suspension or off-site direction and welcoming the student back to school
- Regular meetings with a member of the pastoral team
- Where appropriate, meetings with the School Chaplain
- Monitoring of the student's conduct to highlight positive behaviour
- Informing the student, parents/carers and staff of potential external support

Part-time timetables will not be used as a tool to manage behaviour and, if used, will be put in place for the minimum time necessary.

The strategy will be regularly reviewed and adapted where necessary throughout the reintegration process in collaboration with the student, parents/carers and other relevant parties.

8.2 Reintegration meetings

The school will clearly explain the reintegration strategy to the student in a reintegration meeting before or on the student's return to school. During the meeting the school will communicate to the student that they are getting a fresh start and that they are a valued member of the school community.

The student, parents/carers, a member of senior staff, and any other relevant staff will be invited to attend the meeting.

The school expects all returning students and their parents/carers to attend their reintegration meeting, as it is an important step in ensuring a positive return to school. If a parent or carer cannot attend the meeting, it will be rescheduled, but the student will not be prevented from returning to school.

9. Remote access to meetings

Parents/carers, or students if they are 18 or older, can request that a meeting with the LGB, or independent review panel be held remotely. If the parents/carers/student don't express a preference, the meeting will be held in person.

Requests for remote meetings may be refused where, following a risk assessment, it is considered that a remote format would not allow the meeting to be conducted fairly, transparently, or with full participation due to safeguarding reasons.

In case of extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances, which mean it is not reasonably practicable for the meeting to be held in person, the meeting will be held remotely.

Remotely accessed meetings are subject to the same procedural requirements as in-person meetings.

The LGB and the academy trust should make sure that the following conditions are met before agreeing to let a meeting proceed remotely:

- All the participants have access to the technology that will allow them to hear, speak, see and be seen
- All the participants will be able participate fully
- The remote meeting can be held fairly and transparently

Social workers and the VSH always have the option of joining remotely, whether the meeting is being held in person or not, as long as they can meet the conditions for remote access listed above.

The meeting will be rearranged to an in-person meeting without delay if technical issues arise that can't be reasonably resolved and:

- Compromise the ability of participants to contribute effectively, or
- Prevent the meeting from running fairly and transparently

10. Monitoring arrangements

The school will collect data on the following:

- Attendance, permanent exclusions and suspensions
- Use of student referral units (PRUs), off-site directions and managed moves
- Anonymous surveys of staff, students, governors, trustees and other stakeholders on their perceptions and experiences

The data will be analysed every term by the Assistant Headteacher in charge of Inclusion at the Ethos and Well-being Committee of the LGB. They will also report on this data directly to the Head Teacher in line management meetings.

The data will be analysed from a variety of perspectives including:

- At school level
- By age group
- By protected characteristic

The school will use the results of this analysis to make sure it is meeting its duties under the Equality Act 2010. If any patterns or disparities between groups of students are identified by this analysis, the school will review its policies in order to tackle it.

This policy will be reviewed by the Head Teacher annually. At every review, the policy will be shared with the LGB.

11. Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- SEND policy
- SEN information report

Appendix 1: independent review panel training

The Trust, through the LGB, must make sure that all members of an independent review panel and clerks/governance professionals 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 suspensions and permanent exclusions on disciplinary grounds, 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/governance professional 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