



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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EXCLUSION POLICY

When there is repeated or serious misbehaviour the school will use the policy and framework below. This policy follows advice from Bath and North East Somerset and complies with the requirements set out in the 1997 Education Act.

Reasons for Exclusion

Behaviour for which exclusion may be used includes:

- (a) actual or threatened physical violence
- (b) seriously disruptive behaviour which interferes with the learning opportunities of others or might lead to a breakdown in school discipline
- (c) continual low stage disruption which prevents other pupils learning
- (d) conduct which might endanger others
- (e) continuing failure to complete lesser school punishments such as detentions
- (f) refusal to comply with uniform regulations
- (g) illegal activities including theft, drugs or possession of offensive weapons
- (h) racial abuse or harassment
- (i) harassment, intimidation or verbal or sexual abuse
- (j) vandalism

Types of Exclusion:

- (a) **Fixed Term Exclusion.** The Headteacher, or in his absence the Deputy or designated Assistant Headteacher, may exclude a pupil for up to fifteen days in any one term. The exclusion should be regarded as a “cooling off period” during which time reports on the pupil and meetings with parents can be arranged with the intention of the child returning to school. Work will be set during a fixed term exclusion and from the sixth consecutive day of exclusion the pupil will be educated off-site.
- (b) **Permanent Exclusion** will be used when the Headteacher decides the pupil should not return to school. This sanction is a last resort and will be used when allowing the pupil to remain at school would be seriously detrimental to the education or welfare of the pupil, or to that of others at the school.

For both types of exclusion parents have the right to make representations to the Governing Body. Additionally, there is clear and recent guidance from the DFE (September 2012) available to schools. This guidance should be used particularly when considering a permanent exclusion as it details new appeals process including the setting up of an independent appeal panel.

Disciplinary Stages:

When a pupil's behaviour becomes a serious cause for concern the school will use the following disciplinary stages to let the pupil, staff, parents and Governors know of its concern. Placing a pupil on a disciplinary stage is not therefore a punishment in itself but expresses the seriousness of the school's concern. The stages become progressively more serious as behaviour deteriorates further and finally results in permanent exclusion.

The intention of the system is to promote good behaviour by providing pupils with the chance to improve on their behaviour and consistent good behaviour will result in “stages” being removed.

Stage 1 will be used when a pupil is in danger of exclusion. This stage will be accompanied by a meeting between the school (House Head or Head of Pastoral) and parents.

Stage 2 will be used when a pupil’s behaviour has deteriorated so much that the school feels it is necessary to notify the Director of Education and/or Chair of Governors of the problem. There will usually be a short fixed term exclusion at this stage.

Stage 3 will be used when a very serious incident of misbehaviour occurs or when further misbehaviour may result in permanent exclusion. Fixed term exclusion will again accompany this stage and a Governors’ Panel will be convened to meet with parents and the pupil to discuss strategies for improved behaviour.

Stage 4. Permanent exclusion: will be used when there is a serious incident which leads to the safety of other children being put at risk and/or when there is persistent continuous misbehaviour which puts the pupil beyond the care and control of the school and undermines the education and/or safety of other children. The Headteacher’s decision to permanently exclude will be considered by a panel of three Governors. At this meeting the child and their parents/guardians will hear the school’s case for exclusion and be able to put their case. If the panel agrees to uphold the Headteacher’s decision there is a right of appeal.

Further Points:

1. Serious misbehaviour may result in the use of a higher disciplinary stage without having first used the lower stages
2. Permanent exclusion will only be used where there is “serious” misbehaviour or when the pupil is beyond the care and control of the school
3. Copies of exclusion letters will be sent to the Children Missing Education Service and Chair of Governors; permanent exclusion letter also copied to a Principal Education Officer
4. When a representation panel is requested by parents, three Governors will be approached and a meeting held with parents to discuss the reasons for exclusion
5. Permanent exclusion panels will be at least three Governors. There is a further right of appeal for parents and Governors to an independent tribunal to determine whether this Panel has acted reasonably
6. Exclusion will not normally be used for truancy, as other sanctions will be used
7. The school may use exclusion for children who persistently refuse to comply with the uniform regulations
8. If a parent cannot attend a meeting after reasonable notice has been given, the disciplinary stage may be implemented in their absence