

Exclusion and Suspension of Pupils

Under circumstances where the school no longer feels able to support a child, for example in cases of serious or repeated acts of vandalism, violence, disruptive, defiant, dangerous or abusive behaviour, or for any of the reasons given under the 'Exclusion' section below a pupil may be suspended or excluded permanently from school even when the probationary period has ended and the child has been accepted into the school.

Suspension

The length of the period of suspension will depend on the age of the child and the seriousness of the situation and will be decided by the Class Teacher in consultation with at least one other colleague. Parents will be informed by telephone (if the suspension is immediate) and in writing of the period of suspension and the reasons for it. Tasks or conditions may be set which must be completed before the pupil returns to school. These will be made clear to the pupil and his/her parents.

Exclusion

Possible reasons for excluding a child permanently may include:

- The child is found to have educational needs which the school is unable to meet at the present time.
- The child's parents do not fulfil their financial commitment to the school.
- The child presents unacceptable behaviour which teachers feel unable to meet in the context of the school or Class, given the limitations of available resources.
- The child's parents are not willing to support their child's education, e.g. in the ways indicated in this handbook under 'What does the school ask of parents?'
- The child's parents are not willing to co-operate with the school in trying to overcome the child's difficulties.
- The school discovers that important, relevant information about the child was not disclosed by the parents at the time of interview, e.g. that the child has been expelled from another school.
- The school feels that, in some other way, the best interests of the child are not being served, e.g. the journey to school is too long or attendance or punctuality are very poor

Procedure

Before the decision is made to exclude a child the teachers will seek advice and support from the child's parents about the child's difficulties and make every reasonable effort to resolve them.

Teachers will consult one another and other professionals where appropriate, e.g. where there is reason to believe that they may be able to help, where a delay would not have serious adverse consequences for the child or other children (e.g. in cases of abuse), and where the principles and methods of those professionals are not at odds with those of the school (e.g. the use of keyboards in the Lower School for dyslexic children would not be acceptable).

The child's parents would be informed as soon as there was a question of possible exclusion and, when a decision to exclude has been made, the parents will be given ten weeks' notice in writing. If it is in the interests of the child, parents may be advised to remove him/her from school before the official exclusion date. In extreme circumstances, a child may be suspended from school until the date of exclusion.