

7 MINUTE BRIEFING – (applies to maintained schools, academies and PRUs)

‘Suspensions and Exclusions’ Updated Sept 2022 (gov.uk)

6. N.B.

- Off-site direction or managed moves should be considered as preventative measures to exclusion.
- Schools must provide work for the first 5 days of any exclusion or suspension.
- Governing boards have a duty to consider any permanent exclusion and defined circumstances regarding suspensions.
- Schools should support pupils to reintegrate successfully following a suspension or period of off-site direction.

Introduction:

Good behaviour in schools is essential to ensure that all pupils benefit from the opportunities provided by education. The recently updated guidance on behaviour generally and exclusions more specifically should provide all the information schools and governors require. **They should be read in conjunction**, however, with the SEND and Equality guidance, KCSIE and ‘Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools’ for a full understanding.

5. Permanent exclusions:

The decision to exclude permanently must only be taken:

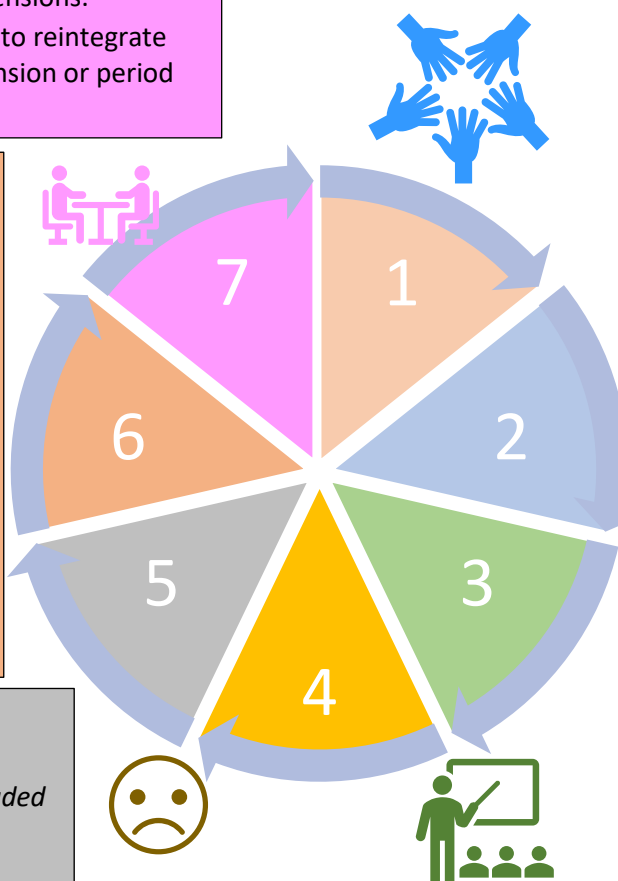
- in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and
- where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.

4. Who is responsible?

- *the local authority arranging suitable education for an excluded pupil*
- *the governing body of a maintained school making, reviewing & communicating the use of an off-site direction; and*
- *the governing body arranging suitable education for a suspended pupil*

and Heads must notify governors of:

- *any permanent exclusion.*
- *any suspension or permanent exclusion which would result in the pupil being suspended or permanently excluded for a total of more than five school days in a term.*
- *any suspension or permanent exclusion which would result in the pupil missing a public examination or national **curriculum test**.*



3. Be aware:

Telling or forcing a pupil to leave school, or not allowing them to attend school, is a suspension (if temporary) or permanent exclusion (if permanent), as is:

- *exercising undue influence over a parent to remove their child or*
- *pressuring a parent into electively home educating their child*

*Schools have a **statutory duty** to make arrangements for **safeguarding and promoting the welfare** of their pupils*
A suspension cannot be ‘converted’ to a permanent exclusion.

1. Definitions:

Permanent exclusions – a pupil is removed from the school roll and is found a place in another school (always involves governors)

Suspensions – a pupil can be ‘suspended’ from school for 0.5 days to 45 days in any school year but will return (involves governors over certain thresholds)

Alternative Provision – provision for the education of a student which is not the student’s home school (it includes PRUs, hospital school, FE settings.....)

Off-site direction may only be used as a way to improve future behaviour and not as a sanction or punishment for past misconduct and is time limited.

Managed moves are with a view to a permanent move.

2. Changes in 2022:

- Headteachers *may* cancel an exclusion that has not been reviewed by the governing board. If this occurs, parents, the governing board and the local authority *should* be notified.
- When headteachers suspend or permanently exclude a pupil they **must**, without delay, notify parents.
- When headteachers suspend or permanently exclude a pupil, they **must** also notify the local authority, without delay, whatever length of exclusion.