



SCAMPTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Exclusion Policy

1. A decision to exclude a pupil permanently should be taken only:
 - a) in response to serious breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and
 - b) if allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.
2. A decision to exclude a pupil for a fixed period should be taken, on a balance of probabilities, only in response to breaches of the school's behaviour policy, including persistent disruptive behaviour, where these are not serious enough to warrant permanent exclusion and lesser sanctions such as detention are considered inappropriate. Individual fixed period exclusions should be for the shortest time necessary, bearing in mind that exclusions of more than a day or two make it more difficult for the pupil to reintegrate into the school afterwards. Ofsted inspection evidence suggests that 1-3 days are often long enough to secure the benefits of exclusion without adverse educational consequences. Where it is clear that fixed period exclusions are not being effective in deterring poor behaviour, for example if they are being repeatedly imposed on a pupil in response to the same behaviour, head teachers/teachers in charge should consider alternative strategies for addressing that behaviour.
3. Only the head teacher, or teacher in charge of a PRU (or, in the absence of the head teacher or teacher in charge, the acting head teacher or teacher in charge) can exclude a pupil. Other exclusion-related activities do not have to be undertaken by the head teacher personally, but may be delegated.
4. A decision to exclude a child **permanently** is a serious one and should only be taken where the basic facts have been clearly established on the balance of probabilities. It will usually be the final step in a process for dealing with disciplinary offences following a wide range of other strategies which have been tried without success. It is an acknowledgement by the school that it has exhausted all available strategies for dealing with the child and should normally be used as a last resort.
5. There will, however, be exceptional circumstances where, in the head teacher's/teacher in charge's judgment, it is appropriate to permanently exclude a child for a first or 'one off' offence. These might include:
 - a) serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff;
 - b) sexual abuse or assault;
 - c) supplying an illegal drug; or
 - d) carrying an offensive weapon (for advice on what constitutes an offensive weapon, see *School Security – Dealing with Troublemakers – Chapter 6* at www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolsecurity/dwt6offensive_weapons.shtml) Schools now have a power to screen and search pupils for weapons (please see guidance at : <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=11454>)



Schools should consider whether or not to inform the police where a criminal offence may have taken place. They should also consider whether or not to inform other agencies such as Youth Offending Teams or social workers.

6. These instances are not exhaustive, but indicate the severity of such offences and the fact that such behaviour can affect the discipline and well-being of the school community.
7. In cases where a head teacher / teacher in charge has permanently excluded a pupil for:
 - a) one of the above offences; or
 - b) persistent and defiant misbehaviour including bullying or repeated possession and/or use of an illegal drug on school premises (see further guidance on bullying at www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/tacklingbullying/) and where the basic facts of the case have been clearly established on the balance of probabilities, the Secretary of State would not normally expect the governing body/the management committee of a PRU or an Independent Appeal Panel to reinstate the pupil.

Review

This policy was compiled by the Headteacher in consultation with teaching staff, pupils, parents and Governors.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governors of Scampton Church of England Primary School at the first meeting of each academic year.