

Shiplake Church of England Primary School

Exclusion Policy 2014

It is the policy of Shiplake Church of England Primary School (the "School") to try to deal with all behavioural issues in an active, positive way, employing a wide range of strategies, including those specifically designed to avoid such issues reaching the point of exclusion.

This Exclusion Policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Behaviour Policy as well as other relevant School policies, particularly the Special Educational Needs Policy and the Equality Policy. It also has a close inter-relationship with the Anti-Bullying Policy and Attendance Policy.

Purpose of this policy

This policy is designed to state the School's approach to exclusions within the statutory framework as defined in the School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (the "Regulations"). Capitalised terms used in this policy should be interpreted in line with the definitions set out in the Regulations.

This policy outlines only where the School applies its own additional guidance and policies, which complement and reinforce the statutory guidance in the Regulations, for purposes of clarity in the day-to-day operation of the School.

Principles

1) Exclusion is a sanction used by the School only in cases deemed as serious breaches of the School's Behaviour Policy. A pupil may be at risk of exclusion from the School for the following (including but not limited to):

- Verbal or physical assault of a student or adult; and/or
- Persistent and repetitive disruption of lessons and other students' learning; and/or
- Extreme misbehaviour which is deemed outside the remit of the normal range of sanctions.

2) A Fixed Term Exclusion from the School can only be authorised by the Headteacher or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Headteacher acting on their behalf. If neither is available to authorise the exclusion a decision should be deferred until the opportunity for authorisation is available.

3) In the case of a Permanent Exclusion, this can only be authorised by the Headteacher and must only be done after consulting the Chair of Governors of the intention to impose this sanction, although the final decision rests with the Headteacher of the School.

4) The School seeks to reduce the number of incidents leading to exclusions by promoting a positive atmosphere of mutual respect and discipline within the School.

5) The School regularly monitors the number of Fixed Term Exclusions to ensure that no group of pupils is unfairly disadvantaged through their use and that any underlying needs of individuals are being fully met.

Notification of an Exclusion

- 1) Parents will be notified as soon as possible of the decision to exclude a pupil and the reason for the exclusion. This will be done on the day of the exclusion being authorised by either direct phone contact or a face-to-face meeting. A written confirmation of the reason(s) for the exclusion will be sent to parents the same day.
- 2) In the case of a Permanent Exclusion parents will be notified by the Headteacher in a face-to-face meeting.
- 3) A pupil who has been excluded will have the reason for his/her exclusion explained to them by a member of staff so that they understand the nature of their misbehaviour.
- 4) The School will also work to put in place a programme for the pupil on his/her return. This will include input from staff at the School, parents, if appropriate, and any other appropriate bodies e.g. School Home Support Practitioner, Attendance Service or the Local Authority. Should it be decided for whatever reason that the matter needs to be put in the hands of another agency i.e. the incident leads to the discovery that there is a safeguarding issue, the School will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with that agency. It is hoped that in most cases following an exclusion, the child will be able to return to School and that further input will promote in him/her a more positive attitude and a subsequent improvement in behaviour.
- 5) The Chair of Governors, relevant Local Authority Officer and relevant School staff will be notified of all Fixed Term Exclusions the same day of the production of the exclusion letter, which they will receive a copy of; it will clearly outline the reasons for the exclusion.

Pupils Returning from a Fixed Term Exclusion

- 1) All pupils returning from a Fixed Term Exclusion are required to attend a reintegration meeting at the School, accompanied by a parent. This meeting will seek to establish practical ways in which further exclusion can be avoided and behaviour modified to acceptable standards in partnership between student, parent and the School.

A School will usually only Permanently Exclude a child as a last resort, after trying to improve the child's behaviour through other means. However, there may be exceptional circumstances in which a Headteacher may decide to permanently exclude a pupil because of on-going issues or even for a 'one-off' egregious incident.

If your child has been Permanently Excluded, be aware that:

- the School's Governing Body is required to review the Headteacher's decision and you may meet with them to explain your views on the exclusion;
- if the Governing Body confirms the exclusion, you can appeal to an independent appeal panel organised by the Local Authority;
- the School must explain in a letter how to lodge an appeal; and
- the Local Authority must provide full-time education from the sixth day of a Permanent Exclusion

Appeals

All correspondence regarding an exclusion from the School will inform parents of their right to appeal to the Governing Body against the decision to exclude. This procedure is clearly set out in the statutory guidance and the Regulations. The person who should be contacted to initiate an appeal is the Clerk to the Governors.

Monitoring and Review

- 1) This policy will be reviewed by the Governors' Performance and Standards Committee (the "Committee") every three years unless there has been a material change in the Regulations and/or statutory guidance
- 2) The Headteacher will provide the Committee with regular monitoring reports which will help it to evaluate the effectiveness of this policy and procedures
- 3) This policy and procedures will be reviewed and amended in the light of such evaluation and in consultation with representatives of all key stakeholders.