

FLITWICK LOWER SCHOOL

Policy

Exclusions



Flitwick Lower School seeks to avoid exclusions and they are extremely rare at this school. They take place only for very serious incidents or when other strategies have been tried and have failed over time.

It is the policy of Flitwick Lower School to try to deal with all behavioural issues in an active, positive way, employing a wide range of strategies to avoid such issues reaching the point of exclusion. In most cases, exclusion will be the last resort after a range of measures have been employed to improve the pupil's behaviour and after a range of strategies have been put in place to address the inappropriate behaviour which may lead to exclusion.

Teaching and learning must be able to take place undisturbed in classrooms. If an individual or group prevents this from happening, the behaviours must be adjusted. We accept that it is the behaviour that is the problem, not the pupil. The aim of our positive behaviour management policy is

- To help pupils realise the inappropriate behaviour and provide strategy/guidance for putting it right
- To reward positive behaviour
- To help support behaviour modification if pupils persist in making inappropriate choices with their behaviour

To support good behaviour, Flitwick Lower has a clear process that is shared with the children. Class rules are established within each class. These are regularly reinforced to ensure that the children are clear about the levels of expectation of their behaviour, and reviewed to ensure consistent use across the whole school.

However, exclusions may at times be appropriate when a pupil's presence would present an ongoing danger to themselves or others.

The Head Teacher and staff will identify pupils whose behaviours place them at risk of exclusion, and seek additional provision to meet their individual needs, which could include working in partnership with other agencies. Pastoral Support Programmes are in place for pupil with behavioural difficulties which outline strategies in place to support them within school

Exclusion

Fixed term and permanent exclusions will be used when other strategies and sanctions have not been effective over time or when there has been a single clear and serious breach of discipline.

A serious offence could, by itself, justify a pupil's exclusion. This may include an aspect of the following:

- Physical assault towards an adult or other pupil
- Threatening behaviour/verbal abuse toward an adult or other pupil
- Racist verbal abuse
- Sustained bullying
- Sexual misconduct
- Carrying an offensive weapon
- Drug or Alcohol related incidents
- Damage to school or personal property of an adult or other pupil
- Frequent high-level disruption or non-compliance
- Frequent high-levels of disrespect to adults who work in school
- Serious breach of the school's rules or policies

Each individual situation will be investigated according to need. The Head Teacher or Assistant Head will gather evidence, seeking the opinions and advice of colleagues. The views of the at-risk pupil and peers may be sought to gain a full picture before action is taken.

Types of Exclusion

1. Fixed Term Exclusion

- This is used when persistent inappropriate behaviour continues over time OR if a one-off serious offence is committed.
- Only the Head Teacher can exclude a pupil.

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- Fixed exclusions vary in length, depending on the offence.
- Parents/guardians will be immediately notified by telephone, and asked to remove their child from school premises. The Head Teacher will outline the reasons for the exclusion.

Parents of all pupils who are excluded on a fixed-term basis will be invited to a reintegration meeting, usually on the pupil's first morning back into school, so that an appropriate way forward can be agreed. A support plan then will be put in place to support the pupil. This will be reviewed with staff and parents as needed, until it is no longer felt to be necessary or it becomes apparent that further measures are needed.

2. Permanent Exclusion

Permanent Exclusion is very rare as it is a very serious matter and is never taken lightly.

- Only the Head Teacher can permanently exclude a pupil.
- The Head Teacher may need to permanently exclude a pupil when s/he is sure that
 - The pupil has seriously breached the school's discipline policy,
 - If the pupil remains in school it would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school
- The Head Teacher will ensure that there is sufficient recorded evidence to support the decision. This information will be formally recorded into a letter confirming the reasons for the permanent exclusion.

Roles and Responsibility

There is a formal process for all exclusions, and these must be reported to the Local Authority. The Chair of the Governors will be notified at the time of the exclusion. Should it be decided that, for whatever reason, the matter needs to be referred on to another agency, the school will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with that agency.

The Head Teacher or named Deputy will account for any special educational needs when considering whether to exclude a pupil.

Parents are also able to seek advice from the local Parent Partnership service if they have concerns, and may also contact the school's governors following an exclusion if they wish to do so.

Parents of all pupils who are excluded on a fixed term will be invited to a reintegration meeting, usually on the pupils first morning back in school, so that an appropriate way forward can be agreed. A pastoral support plan may then be put into place to support the pupil. This is reviewed fortnightly with parents until it is no longer felt to be necessary.

Policy Agreed by staff:	October 12
Policy Agreed by Governors:	October 12
Last Review Date:	October 17
Next Review date:	October 18
Signed:	