

DJS Exclusion Policy

Responsibility for document:	Head Teacher
Approval date:	Spring 2022
Review date:	Spring 2024

Exclusion will occur in response to serious or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy and also where allowing the children to remain in school would seriously harm the education and welfare of the child or others in the school.

The school follows Government guidelines on exclusion:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>

'The decision to exclude a pupil must be lawful, reasonable and fair. Schools have a statutory duty not to discriminate against pupils on the basis of protected characteristics, such as disability or race. Schools should give particular consideration to the fair treatment of pupils from groups who are vulnerable to exclusion. Disruptive behaviour can be an indication of unmet needs. Where a school has concerns about a pupil's behaviour, it should try to identify whether there are any causal factors and intervene early in order to reduce the need for a subsequent exclusion. In this situation, schools should consider whether a multiagency assessment that goes beyond the pupil's educational needs is required.'

'Informal' or 'unofficial' exclusions, such as sending a pupil home 'to cool off', are unlawful, regardless of whether they occur with the agreement of parents or carers. Any exclusion of a pupil, even for short periods of time, must be formally recorded.

- In cases of repeated serious misbehaviour a child may be excluded for a fixed term. (In most cases this route will only be taken after all other reasonable approaches and strategies have been followed).
- A child may also receive fixed term exclusion if the Head Teacher judges a single incident to be serious enough for the child to be immediately excluded without prior strategies being employed. Examples of this may include physical violence to a member of staff or pupil, drug use, inappropriate use of the internet, extensive vandalism to school property.
- Only the Head Teacher has the power to exclude a pupil from school. If they are not on site, the Senior Leadership team should consult with them prior to any decision. They may exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods, for up to 45 days in any school year.
- Children at risk of permanent exclusion (i.e. those who have already received a number of fixed term exclusions) should have a Risk Assessment and Support Plan in place following involvement from the County's Behaviour Support Service and Exclusions Team.
- The Head Teacher may also exclude a pupil permanently.

- If the Head Teacher excludes a pupil, s/he must inform the parents immediately, provide reasons for the exclusion and information on how to appeal against the decision to the governing body in a formal letter. At the same time, the Head must inform Hampshire County Council.

- The school will work on a suitable plan for reintegrating a pupil who returns to school following a fixed-period exclusion and for managing their future behaviour.

(These are the exact words taken from our Positive Behaviour Policy)

In addition, it would be useful to add in the following points from the Hampshire Exclusion information for parents:

- The Head Teacher may use exclusion as a way of managing the behaviour of pupils. It is also used as a way of giving clear messages to the pupil involved and the whole school community that certain kinds of behaviour are unacceptable.
- Your child can be excluded for behaviour outside school if the headteacher feels that there is a clear link between that behaviour and maintaining good behaviour within the school.
- The Head Teacher should not exclude your child in the heat of the moment, unless there was an immediate threat to the safety of your child or others in the school.
- The Head Teacher may exclude your child if they feel that on 'the balance of probabilities' they did what they are accused of. The more serious the behaviour your child is accused of, the stronger the evidence against them needs to be.

Before deciding to exclude your child the Head Teacher should:

- make sure that a thorough investigation has been carried out
- give your child a chance to say what happened
- think carefully about the evidence available
- ensure that the exclusion is for the shortest time necessary
- take into account the school's behaviour and equality policies and, if appropriate, the Race Relations Act and Disability Discrimination Act
- check whether bullying or racial or sexual harassment of your child led to your child's actions
- if necessary consult others

Procedure

The school has adopted the Exclusions Guidance for Hampshire Schools including any updates or amendments made by Hampshire County Council from time to time.

Parents can find information about Exclusion from school on the Hampshire County Council website –

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/educationinclusionsservice/exclusion>

Monitoring arrangements

The Head Teacher monitors the number of exclusions every term and reports back to the governors. They also liaise with the local authority to ensure suitable full-time education for excluded pupils. This policy will be reviewed by the governors every two years or when there are major changes made at County or Governmental level.

Links with other policies

This Exclusions Policy is linked to: DJS Positive Behaviour policy; DJS Anti-bullying policy; DJS SEND policy.