



KINGS' SCHOOL

EXCLUSION POLICY

Policy Reviewed by:	SLT	Jan 2016
Approved by:	Pupil Support Committee	Feb 2016
Endorsed by:	FGB	Mar 2016
To be Reviewed	3 Yearly	2019

Kings' School
Exclusion Policy

1. Context

- 1.1 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour Management, Child Protection, Health and Safety and Equality and Diversity policies.
- 1.2 The school views the exclusion of any pupil to be a serious matter. The school will endeavour to act in a way that is fair, proportionate and with a view to the best interests of the pupil concerned, other pupils, members of staff and the school.
- 1.3 The school will always try to meet the needs of every pupil; we recognise that schools are places where young people come to learn and the school accepts that they will sometimes make mistakes. The school aims to be a forgiving and understanding institution.
- 1.4 However, the school also has high expectations of the behaviour of pupils and must protect the dignity and interests of everyone who works at our school. As such, the school has a collective responsibility and obligation for the behaviour of the entire pupil cohort and so operates a system of sanctions to deter and punish poor behaviour.
- 1.5 The school has a stepped response to poor behaviour. Exclusion from the school is the most serious response, intended as a signal that the school will not tolerate the behaviour in question.

2. Procedures

- 2.1 The decision to exclude a pupil from school is taken by the Headteacher. In the absence of the Headteacher a Deputy Headteacher may take the decision which is then confirmed by the Headteacher as soon as possible. The Headteacher will consider the advice of other senior members of staff, the senior leader responsible for care, support and guidance in particular.

The decision to exclude is generally taken without consultation with the family of the pupil. However, parents are informed as soon as possible.

- 2.2 The school will make every effort to be fair in making decisions regarding exclusions. The pupil will have the opportunity to make a full written statement as soon as possible after the incident; members of staff and other pupils will also be asked to give their accounts of the incident(s).
- 2.3 The Headteacher will then review the evidence and decide whether an exclusion is necessary and if so, how long it will be. When there is contradictory or uncertain evidence, the Headteacher must decide 'on the balance of probability' which account of the incident(s) is most likely to be correct.

- 2.4 The school will sometimes exclude a pupil for a fixed number of days (to be determined by the Headteacher on the basis of the seriousness of the incident, the previous behaviour of the pupil and other relevant circumstances). At the end of the exclusion, the pupil will be re-admitted to the school following a formal meeting between the pupil, parents and the Headteacher.
- 2.5 The school may exclude a pupil while an investigation takes place (if the pupil's presence at school would be detrimental to the investigation or if the incident being investigated is very serious); under these circumstances, the length of the exclusion will not necessarily be known at first. Similarly, if additional information becomes available after the length of the exclusion has been decided, the Headteacher may shorten or extend the exclusion.
- 2.6 The school recognises that exclusions of up to five consecutive days and those over five days require different arrangements.
- 2.7 Where an exclusion is of five or fewer days the school will expect parents to assume responsibility for an excluded pupil during school hours. Where an exclusion is of six or more days the school will assume responsibility for ensuring the pupil receives an appropriate education from the sixth day. Arrangements will be made on a case by case basis, the most common arrangement involving a temporary placement in a neighbouring school.
- 2.8 The length of an exclusion is a complex matter that involves issues of judgement. The first principle is that the exclusion should be as short as possible given the circumstances. Longer exclusions may be appropriate for more serious incidents or for repeat offences.
- 2.9 The school will, where appropriate, consider the permanent exclusion of a pupil. Permanent exclusion may result from a single serious incident or from a more gradual breakdown in the relationship between the pupil and the school.
- 2.10 Exclusion at Kings' is generally a response to a specific incident of a serious nature. In the past this has fallen into the following main groups
- swearing at or in the presence of a member of staff
 - other abusive behaviour toward a member of staff
 - persistent and/or severe bullying
 - violence
 - serious vandalism or damage to property
 - theft
 - persistent refusal to comply with instructions
 - possession, misuse or consumption of banned or illegal substances

However, this list is not exhaustive and exclusion may be used in other circumstances.

- 2.11 In almost all cases parents are informed about an exclusion by telephone and, if appropriate, arrangements made for the pupil to be collected from school. Parents

may give permission for the pupil to be sent home or the school may keep the pupil until the end of the school day.

- 2.12 A formal letter setting out the reasons for the exclusion, the duration of the exclusion, the return date and parents' rights to appeal is normally sent the same day by first class post.

Sometimes the school will set an initial exclusion period and this may then be extended. This happens because:

- the full events surrounding the situation need further investigation or further information comes to light
- the school is waiting for other agencies (e.g. the police) to make further enquiries
- a multi-agency planning meeting needs to be arranged.

- 2.13 In all cases the school will inform:

- the local authority inclusion officer
- Governors' discipline committee

- 2.14 Pupils returning from exclusion will have a formal meeting with the Headteacher or his representative before they return to lessons. Parents are expected to attend – it is vital that they have a chance to discuss the incident(s) and help the pupil decide how to avoid further exclusions.

- 2.15 Pupils will be expected to apologise formally to any pupil or member of staff who has suffered as a result of their actions. Where blame for an incident is shared, the school will take steps to reconcile those involved.

- 2.16 The school is responsible for setting and marking work during an exclusion. The school will make work available for collection by a person other than the excluded pupil at the school office. This work will normally be available within half a day of the start of the exclusion.