

THE DINGLE PRIMARY SCHOOL SUSPENSION/EXCLUSIONS POLICY

The Dingle Primary School has adopted the LA guidelines on Exclusions and pays heed to relevant DFE advice as it is issued.

Rationale

This policy is an appendix of The Dingle Primary School Behaviour Policy; it deals with the policy and practice which informs the school's use of suspension and permanent exclusion. It is underpinned by the shared commitment of all members of the school community to achieve a very important aim;

To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the school community, and to maintain an appropriate educational environment in which all can learn and succeed.

The latest guidance can be found at:

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

Introduction

The decision to exclude a pupil will be taken in the following circumstances:

- In response to a serious breach of the school's Behaviour Policy
- If allowing the student to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.

Suspension is an extreme sanction and is only administered by the Headteacher (or, in the absence of the Head, the member of the Senior Leadership Team who is acting in that role).

Suspension, whether a fixed term suspension or permanent exclusion, may be used for any of the following, all of which constitute examples of unacceptable conduct and are infringements of the Behaviour Policy;

- Unacceptable behaviour which has previously been reported and for which school sanctions and other interventions have not been successful in modifying the pupil's behaviour
- Verbal or physical abuse of other pupils or school staff
- Aggression towards other pupils leading to the possibility of physical or emotional harm
- Indecent behaviour

This is not an exhaustive list and there may be other situations where the Headteacher makes the judgement that exclusion is an appropriate sanction.

Suspension Procedure

Once the decision to suspend has been made (see over the page) contact Cheshire East for advice and current procedures.

Most suspensions are of a fixed term suspension nature and are of short duration, 1-3 days would be considered usual.

The DFE regulations allow the Headteacher to suspend a pupil for one or more fixed periods not exceeding 45 school days in any one school year.

The Governors have established arrangements to review promptly all permanent exclusions from the school and all fixed-term suspensions that would lead to a student being excluded for over 15 days in a school term or missing a public examination.

The Governors have established arrangements to review fixed term suspensions which would lead to a student being suspended for over five days but not over 15 days in a school term where a parent has expressed a wish to make representations.

Following suspension parents are contacted immediately where possible. A letter will be sent by hand or by post giving details of the exclusion and the date the suspension ends. Parents have a right to make representations (see Cheshire East model letters).

A return to school meeting will be held following the expiry of the fixed term suspension and this will involve a member of the Senior Management Team and other staff where appropriate.

During the course of a fixed term suspension, where the pupil is to be at home, parents are advised that the pupil is not allowed on the school premises, and that daytime supervision is their responsibility, as parents/guardians.

For suspensions over 1 day, work will be provided by the class teacher.

For suspensions of more than 5 days consecutively the school has a duty to provide full time education for the suspended pupil, this will not be on The Dingle Primary School site.

Permanent Exclusion

The decision to exclude a student permanently is a serious one. There are two main types of situation in which permanent exclusion may be considered.

1. The final, formal step in a concerted process for dealing with disciplinary offences following the use of a wide range of other strategies, which have been used without success. It is an acknowledgement that all available

strategies have been exhausted and is used as a last resort. This would include persistent and defiant misbehaviour.

2. When a serious criminal act has been committed, the school will involve the police in any such offence.

General factors the school considers before making the decision to exclude

Exclusion will not be imposed instantly unless there is an immediate threat to the safety of others in the school or the student concerned. Before deciding whether to exclude a pupil either permanently or for a fixed suspension period the Headteacher will;

- Ensure appropriate investigations have been carried out.
- Consider all the evidence available to support the allegations considering the school policies.
- Allow the student to give her/his version of events.

Signed..... Dated.....
Chair of Governors

Signed..... Dated.....
Headteacher

This policy will be reviewed annually.
Next review date: Spring 2026