



Hollinsclough CE Academy

Exclusions Policy: 2019

Mission Statement

To encourage high levels of achievement through the enthusiasm and joy of learning, coupled with a creative curriculum and a holistic approach to education that reflects Christian values and supports our community. We guarantee accessibility and availability to all.'

Developing potential

Preamble

Here in Hollinsclough exclusion is thankfully for all involved almost unheard of. That does not mean that we are unable or unwilling to manage such circumstances and to address this potential issue this policy is intended to set out how we approach and manage such issues.

Contents

1. Aims.....	1
2. Legislation and statutory guidance	1
3. The decision to exclude	2
4. Definition.....	2
5. Roles and responsibilities	2
6. Considering the reinstatement of a pupil	3
7. An independent review.....	4
8. School registers.....	4
9. Returning from a fixed-term exclusion	4
10. Monitoring arrangements	5
11. Links with other policies	4
Appendix 1: independent review panel training.....	6

Aims

Our school aims to ensure that:

- The exclusions process is applied fairly and consistently
- The exclusions process is understood by governors, staff, parents and pupils
- Pupils in school are safe and happy
- Pupils do not become NEET (not in education, employment or training)

Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy is based on statutory guidance from the Department for Education: [Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units \(PRUs\) in England](#).

It is based on the following legislation, which outlines a schools' powers to exclude pupils:

- Section 52 of the [Education Act 2002](#), as amended by the [Education Act 2011](#)
- [The School Discipline \(Pupil Exclusions and Reviews\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
- Sections 64-68 of the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#)

Also, the policy is based on:

- Part 7, chapter 2 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#), which looks at parental responsibility for excluded pupils
- Section 579 of the [Education Act 1996](#), which defines 'school day.'
- The [Education \(Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils\) \(England\) Regulations 2007](#), as amended by [The Education \(Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

The decision to exclude

Only the Principal, or Acting Principal/Head of School, can exclude a pupil from school. A permanent exclusion will be taken as a last resort.

A decision to exclude a pupil will be taken only:

- In response to serious or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, **and**
- If allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others

Before deciding whether to exclude a pupil, either permanently or for a fixed period, the headteacher will:

- Consider all the relevant facts and evidence, including whether the incident(s) leading to the exclusion was provoked
- Allow the pupil to give their version of events
- Consider if the pupil has special educational needs (SEN)

Definition

For the purposes of exclusion, a school day is defined as any day on which there is a school session. Therefore, INSET or staff training days do not count as a school day.

Roles and responsibilities

The Principal

Informing parents

The Principal will immediately provide the following information, in writing, to the parents of an excluded pupil:

- The reason(s) for the exclusion
- The length of a fixed-term exclusion or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent
- Information about parents' right to make representations about the exclusion to the governing board and how the pupil may be involved in this
- Where there is a legal requirement for the governing board to meet to consider the reinstatement of a pupil, and that parents have a right to attend a meeting, be represented at a meeting (at their own expense) and to bring a friend

The Principal will also notify parents by the end of the afternoon session on the day their child is excluded that for the first 5 school days of an exclusion, or until the start date of any alternative provision (where this is earlier), that they (as parents) are legally required to ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours without a good reason. Parents may be given a fixed penalty notice or prosecuted if they fail to do this.

If the alternative provision is being arranged, the following information will be included when notifying parents of an exclusion:

- The start date for any provision of full-time education that has been arranged
- The start and finish times of any such provision, including the times for morning and afternoon sessions, where relevant
- The address at which the provision will take place
- Any information required by the pupil to identify the person they should report to on the first day

Where this information on the alternative provision is not reasonably ascertainable by the end of the afternoon session, it may be provided in a subsequent notice, but it will be provided no later than 48 hours before the provision is due to start. The only exception to this is where alternative provision is to be provided before the sixth day of exclusion, in which case the information can be provided with less than 48 hours' notice with parents' consent.

Informing the governing board and local authority

The Principal will immediately notify the governing board and the local authority (LA) of:

- A permanent exclusion, including when a fixed-period exclusion is made permanent
- Exclusions which would result in the pupil being excluded for more than 5 school days (or more than 10 lunchtimes) in a term
- Exclusions which would result in the pupil missing a public examination
- For a permanent exclusion, if the pupil lives outside the LA in which the school is located, the headteacher will also immediately inform the pupil's 'home authority' of the exclusion and the reason(s) for it without delay.

For all other exclusions, the Principal will notify the governing board and LA once a term.

The governing board

Responsibilities regarding exclusions are delegated to exclusions committee of the governing board – consisting of 3 governors.

The appeals committee of the governing board has a duty to consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil (see below).

Within 14 days of receipt of a request, the governing board will provide the secretary of state with information about any exclusions in the last 12 months.

For a fixed-period exclusion of more than 5 school days, the governing board will arrange suitable full-time education for the pupil. This provision will begin no later than the sixth day of the exclusion.

The LA

For permanent exclusions, the LA is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education to begin no later than the sixth day of the exclusion.

Considering the reinstatement of a pupil

The governing board will consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil within 15 school days of receiving the notice of the exclusion if:

- The exclusion is permanent
- It is a fixed-term exclusion which would bring the pupil's total number of school days of exclusion to more than 15 in a term
- It would result in a pupil missing a public examination

If requested to do so by parents, the governing board will consider the reinstatement of an excluded pupil within 50 school days of receiving notice of the exclusion if the pupil would be excluded from school for more than 5 school days, but less than 15, in a single term.

Where an exclusion would result in a pupil missing a public examination, the governing board will consider the reinstatement of the pupil before the date of the examination. If this is not practicable, the appeals committee of the governing board will consider the exclusion and decide whether or not to reinstate the pupil.

The governing board can either:

- Decline to reinstate the pupil, or
- Direct the reinstatement of the pupil immediately, or on a particular date

In reaching a decision, the governing board will consider whether the exclusion was lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair and whether the headteacher followed their legal duties.

They will decide whether or not a fact is true 'on the balance of probabilities', which differs from the criminal standard of 'beyond reasonable doubt', as well as any evidence that was presented in relation to the decision to exclude.

Minutes will be taken of the meeting, and a record of evidence considered kept. The outcome will also be recorded on the pupil's educational record.

The governing board will notify, in writing, the headteacher, parents and the LA of its decision, along with reasons for its decision, without delay.

Where exclusion is permanent, the governing board's decision will also include the following:

- The fact that it is permanent
- Notice of parents' right to ask for the decision to be reviewed by an independent review panel, and:
- The date by which an application for an independent review must be made
- The name and address to whom an application for a review should be submitted
- That any application should set out the grounds on which it is being made and that, where appropriate, reference to how the pupil's SEN are considered to be relevant to the exclusion
- That, regardless of whether the excluded pupil has recognised SEN, parents have a right to require the academy trust to appoint a SEND expert to attend the review
- Details of the role of the SEND expert and that there would be no cost to parents for this appointment
- That parents must make clear if they wish for a SEND expert to be appointed in any application for a review
- That the parents may, at their own expense, appoint someone to make written and/or oral representations to the panel, and parents may also bring a friend to the review

That if parents believe that the exclusion has occurred as a result of discrimination, they may make a claim under the Equality Act 2010 to the first-tier tribunal (special educational needs and disability), in the case of disability discrimination, or the county court, in the case of other forms of discrimination. A claim of

discrimination made under these routes should be lodged within 6 months of the date on which the discrimination is alleged to have taken place

An independent review

If parents apply for an independent review, the academy trust will arrange for an independent panel to review the decision of the governing board not to reinstate a permanently excluded pupil.

Applications for an independent review must be made within 15 school days of the notice being given to the parents by the governing board of its decision to not reinstate a pupil.

A panel of 3 or 5 members will be constituted with representatives from each of the categories below.

Where a 5-member panel is constituted, 2 members will come from the school governors category and 2 members will come from the headteacher category.

- A lay member to chair the panel who has not worked in any school in a paid capacity, disregarding any experience as a school governor or volunteer
- School governors who have served as a governor for at least 12 consecutive months in the last 5 years, provided they have not been teachers or headteachers during this time
- Headteachers/Principals or individuals who have been a headteacher/Principal within the last 5 years

A person may not serve as a member of a review panel if they:

- Are a member/director of the academy trust, or governing board of the excluding school
- Are the headteacher/Principal of the excluding school, or have held this position in the last 5 years
- Are an employee of the academy trust, or the governing board, of the excluding school (unless they are employed as a headteacher/Principal at another school in the same trust)
- Have, or at any time have had, any connection with the academy trust, school, governing board, parents or pupil, or the incident leading to the exclusion, which might reasonably be taken to raise doubts about their impartiality
- Have not had the required training within the last 2 years (see appendix 1 for what training must cover)

A clerk will be appointed to the panel.

The independent panel will decide one of the following:

- Uphold the governing board's decision
- Recommend that the governing board reconsiders reinstatement
- Quash the governing board's decision and direct that they reconsider reinstatement (only when the decision is judged to be flawed)
- The panel's decision can be decided by a majority vote. In the case of a tied decision, the chair has the casting vote.

School registers

A pupil's name will be removed from the school admissions register if:

- 15 school days have passed since the parents were notified of the exclusion panel's decision to not reinstate the pupil and no application has been made for an independent review panel, or
- The parents have stated in writing that they will not be applying for an independent review panel

Where an application for an independent review has been made, the governing board will wait until that review has concluded and their finding reaffirms the original decision before removing a pupil's name from the register.

Where alternative provision has been made for an excluded pupil, and they attend it, code D (dual registration) will be used on the attendance register.

Where excluded pupils are not attending alternative provision, code E (absent) will be used.

Returning from a fixed-term exclusion

Following a fixed-term exclusion, a re-integration meeting will be held involving the pupil, parents, a member of senior staff and other staff, where appropriate.

The following measures may be implemented when a pupil returns from a fixed-term exclusion:

- Agreeing on a behaviour contract
- Putting a pupil 'on report.'
- Internal isolation

Links to other policies

This exclusions policy is linked to the following policies;

- Flexi-schooling Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- SEN Policy and information report
- Acceptable Use Policy

Equality Duty

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

British Values

Children who attend our academy experience an enabling environment in which they will develop self-knowledge, self-esteem, and self-confidence. Coupled with this, they will develop the ability to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England.

Within this enabling environment, your child or children will develop the ability over time to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely.

While with us, our parents can expect their children to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England, and to develop a personal character that is tolerant and can foster harmony between different cultural traditions, along with respect for their own and other cultures.

We firmly believe and encourage our pupils to show respect for other people; and for democracy and the support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

To be part of our academy, it is unacceptable on the part of any stakeholder to promote discrimination against people or groups on the basis of their belief, opinion, or background.

Monitoring arrangements

When circumstances warrant **Mr Stephen Malbon**, our **Bursar** will monitor and report to the governing board on the number of exclusions every term. They also liaise with the local authority to ensure suitable full-time education for excluded pupils.

This policy will be reviewed by our **Principal Mrs Janette Mountford-Lees** every two years, and the outcome of the review shared with the governing board.

Implementation of this policy

Our academy will manage the implementation of this policy with the support and guidance of the appropriate body/bodies as defined at the time of writing.

General

This policy and its guidance will always reflect the present and future needs of all stakeholders and to support this we are always open to suggestions for changes and alterations of and to any specific individual provision/requirement to ensure full access to all.

Signed.



Designation: Chair of Governors

Date: February 2019

Signed.



Designation: Principal

Date: February 2019

This policy is to be reviewed by Governors during Autumn term 2021

Appendix 1: Independent Review Panel training

The academy trust must ensure that all members of an independent review panel and clerks have received training within the 2 years prior to the date of the review.

Training must have covered:

- The requirements of the primary legislation, regulations and statutory guidance governing exclusions, which would include an understanding of how the principles applicable to an application for judicial review relating to the panel's decision making
- The need for the panel to observe procedural fairness and the rules of natural justice
- The role of the chair and the clerk of a review panel
- The duties of headteachers, governing boards and the panel under the Equality Act 2010
- The effect of section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (acts of public authorities unlawful if not compatible with certain human rights) and the need to act in a manner compatible with human rights protected by that Act