



# **Beechview Academy Exclusion Policy (September 2023)**

<b>Statutory</b>	<b>Yes - Website</b>
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Every 3 years</b>
<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Headteacher/Governors</b>

## **Purpose of this policy**

This policy deals with the policy and practice which informs the Academy's use of exclusion. It is underpinned by the shared commitment of all members of the Academy community to achieve the aims listed below.

## **Aims**

- To ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the Academy community and to maintain an appropriate educational environment in which all can learn and succeed
- To realise the aim of reducing the need to use exclusion as a sanction

## **Introduction**

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

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

Exclusion is an extreme sanction and is only administered by the Headteacher (or, in the absence of the Headteacher, the member of the Senior Leadership Team who is acting in that role). Exclusion, whether fixed term or permanent may be used for any of the following, all of which constitute examples of unacceptable conduct and are infringements of the Academy's Behaviour for Learning Policy:

- Unacceptable behaviour which has previously been reported and for which Academy sanctions and other interventions have not been successful in modifying the pupil's behaviour
- Verbal or physical abuse of other pupils or Academy staff
- Physical abuse /attack on staff
- Physical abuse/attack on pupil(s)
- Indecent behaviour
- Misuse of illegal drugs or other substances
- Supplying an illegal drug
- Serious actual or threatened violence against a staff member or pupil · Theft
- Damage to property
- Carrying an offensive weapon
- Arson

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

At times the Headteacher may decide that the best course of action would be to draw up a Pastoral Support Plan to try to avoid further exclusions. However, this may be accompanied by one or more internal exclusions.

## **Exclusion procedure**

Most exclusions are of a fixed term nature and are of short duration. In the instance of

an exclusion, the headteacher will notify the Chair of Governors to ensure that all guidance and procedures are being followed appropriately

The DfE regulations allow the Headteacher to exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods not exceeding 45 Academy days in any one Academy year

The Governors have established arrangements to review promptly all permanent exclusions from the Academy and all fixed term exclusions that would lead to a pupil being excluded for more than 15 days in the Academy term or missing a public examination

The Governors have established arrangements to review fixed term exclusions which would lead to a pupil being excluded for more than 5 days but not more than 15 days in the Academy term where a parent has expressed a wish to make representations

Following an exclusion, parents are contacted immediately where possible. A letter will be sent home (given by hand on the same day if possible) giving details of the exclusion and the date the exclusion ends. Parents have a right to make representations to the Governing Body and the Local Authority as directed in the letter

A return to Academy meeting will be held following the expiry of the fixed term exclusion and this will involve a member of the Senior Management Team and other staff where appropriate. During this meeting, a Pastoral Support Plan will be drawn up, which will include a review date

During the course of a fixed term exclusion where the pupil is to be at home, parents are advised that the pupil is not allowed on the Academy premises, and that daytime supervision is their responsibility, as parents/carers. Parents will also be informed of the risk of prosecution if their child is found in a public place during the Academy hours

Work will be provided by the class teacher for the first 5 days, with alternative provision from day 6

Records relating to exclusions will be stored confidentially.

### **Permanent Exclusion**

The decision to exclude a pupil permanently is a serious one and is not taken lightly. There are two main types of situation in which permanent exclusion may be considered:

- Firstly, a 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 including bullying (which would include racist or

homophobic bullying) or repeated possession and/or use of an illegal drug on Academy premises

- Secondly, where there are exceptional circumstances and it is not appropriate to implement other strategies, the Academy would seriously consider permanently excluding a pupil for a first offence and will involve the police in any such offence

**These might include:**

- Supplying an illegal drug
- Arson
- Sexual abuse or assault
- Carrying an offensive weapon (offensive weapons are defined in the Prevention of Crime Act 1993 as “any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person; or intended by the person having it with him/her for such use by him/her
- Behaviour which poses a significant risk to the child’s own safety
- Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff

These instances are not exhaustive but indicate the severity of such offences and the fact that such behaviour seriously affects the discipline and wellbeing of the Academy.

**General factors the Academy considers before making a decision to exclude**

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

- Ensure appropriate investigations have been carried out
- Consider all the evidence available to support the allegations taking into account the Academy policies
- Allow the pupil to give his/her version of events
- Explore the wider context, taking into consideration how much the incident may have been provoked, for example by bullying or by racial or sexual harassment.
- Explore a placement at Woodlands PRU to avoid exclusion. Woodlands is a provision in the district for children displaying challenging behaviour

If the Headteacher is satisfied that on the balance of probabilities the pupil did what he/she is alleged to have done, then exclusion will be the outcome.