

School Suspension and Exclusion Policy



Approved by:	Headteacher and Governing Body
Date approved:	Sep 2024
Date of next review:	Sep 2025

Meadowhead Community Junior School (MJS) is committed to valuing diversity and to equality of opportunity.

We aim to create and promote an environment in which pupils, parents and staff are treated fairly and with respect, and feel able to contribute to the best of their abilities.

Partnership with Parents

Parents working in partnership with the school to consistently reinforce the school's expectations is an important factor in every pupil's success. At MJS, we will work in partnership with parents to ensure that expectations are clear and parents can reinforce them with their Children.

This includes ensuring that parents are kept informed about decisions made in response to a pupil's misbehavior, so that we can work together in the best interests of pupils to ensure expectations for behavior are made clear.

The school is responsible for communicating to pupils, parents and staff its expectations of standards of conduct. A range of policies and procedures are in place to promote good behaviour and appropriate conduct. These are:

- Behavior Policy;
- Anti-Bullying Policy;
- Home-School Agreement

Supporting Pupils to Succeed

We aim to include, not exclude, and we approach all challenging behaviour in a supportive and positive way. We recognise that such behavior can sometimes be symptomatic of a real, deeper need for our support and understanding. All children can go through times of inappropriate behaviour, and we strive to never "give up" easily on a pupil, as we recognise that each person has a unique contribution to make to school life and we want to support them to achieve this.

We will use behaviour data to assess patterns of challenging behaviour in pupils. Where patterns emerge we will systematically intervene, drawing up an action plan with the pupil, parent and teacher. The SENDCo has overall responsibility for sharing data with class teachers and analysing the data. It is class teacher's, parents' and the pupil's responsibility to ensure the action plan is followed.

No exclusion will be initiated without first attempting other strategies or, in the case of a single incident, a proper investigation.

Reasons for suspension exclusion:

- Serious breach of the school's rules or policies;
- Serious risk of harm to the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.

This can be either a very serious incident or the repetition of serious incidents.

Any exclusion will be at the decision of the Head teacher, usually in consultation with other members of the senior leadership team (particularly if they were involved in investigating the incident).

Types of Exclusion

Internal Exclusion

Internal exclusion is used to exclude a pupil from the rest of the school; the pupil must work away from their class for a fixed amount of time. This will be in a different classroom.

An internal exclusion is a discretionary measure, where a pupil's behaviour is escalating and more serious measures need to be taken but there are not yet grounds for an external / fixed-term exclusion. Typically, a pupil receiving a consequence of this level should be receiving additional support for their behaviour, intended to help them to avoid their behaviour escalating to a point where a fixed term exclusion is necessary (examples: behaviour chart to address specific behaviours causing a problem; support from the SENDCo, pastoral support team etc). Only the Headteacher

Temporary / Fixed-Term exclusion

A temporary / fixed term exclusion is when a pupil is excluded from school and must remain home for a fixed amount of time.

This should be for the shortest time necessary to ensure minimal disruption to the pupil's education, whilst mindful of the seriousness of the breach of policy.

Permanent exclusion

A permanent exclusion is when a pupil is permanently excluded from school and not allowed to return. This is a very serious decision and the Headteacher will consult with senior leaders and Chair of the Governing Body as soon as possible in such a case.

Reasons for Exclusion

A decision to exclude a pupil, either internally, for a fixed period or permanently is seen as a last resort by the school. The physical and emotional health of our children and staff is our primary concern, and we therefore accept, that in some serious situations, exclusion may be necessary, if all other strategies have been exhausted.

The decision to exclude will usually follow a range of strategies and be seen as a last resort, or it will be in response to a very serious breach of school rules and policies or a disciplinary offence such as:

- Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff;
- Possession or use of an illegal drug on school premises;
- Persistent bullying;
- Persistent prejudice based harassment or hatred based acts

Exclusion may be the result of persistently poor behaviour or a serious single incident.

Persistent or cumulative

problems

Internal and temporary/fixed-term exclusion may be used in response to a persistent poor behaviour which breaches school rules and policies. In the most serious cases where the problem persists and there is no improvement a permanent exclusion may be necessary.

These would be imposed only when the school had already offered and implemented a range of support and management strategies. These could be joint action plans with parents, pupil and school, behaviour intervention with the SENDCo / Pastoral Support Lead, target setting, home/school communication book etc.

The length of an exclusion will depend upon a number of factors, such as the severity of the incident, and the likely impact on the pupil's learning and ability to succeed on returning to school. Such decisions will be made in the best interests of the pupil, whilst also mindful of the need to maintain order and reinforce the rules and expectations of the school in a clear and consistent way.

Single incident

Internal and temporary/fixed-term exclusion may be used in response to a very serious breach of school rules and policies or a disciplinary offence. In the most serious cases where the problem persists and there is no improvement a permanent exclusion may be necessary.

In such cases the Head teacher or a designated senior leader will investigate the incident and consider all evidence to support the allegation, taking account of the school's policies. The pupil will be encouraged to give his/her version of events and the Head teacher will check whether the incident may have been provoked, for example by bullying or racial harassment.

The Governing Body will be informed of all exclusions on a termly basis; and additional consultation may also take place about key incidents with the Chair of Governors.

The decision to exclude

If the Head teacher decides to exclude a pupil he/she will:

- ensure that there is sufficient recorded evidence to support the decision;
- explain the decision to the pupil if the pupil is in the state of mind to listen to the decision
- contact the parents, explain the decision and ask that the pupil be collected;
- send a letter to the parents confirming the reasons for the exclusion, whether it is a permanent or temporary exclusion;
- the length of the exclusion and any terms or conditions agreed for the pupil's return;
- parents and pupil on his/her return to be conducted by a suitable senior member of staff.

Safeguarding

An exclusion will not be enforced if doing so may put the safety of the pupil at risk. In cases where parents will not comply by, for example, refusing to collect the pupil, the pupil's welfare is the priority. In this situation, depending on the reason for exclusion, the school may consider an internal exclusion until the end of the day, implementing the original exclusion decision from the time the pupil is collected from school, or, in more severe circumstances the school may contact Childrens' Services and/or the Police to safely take the pupil off site.

Re-integration

After fixed term exclusion the pupil and parent will be requested to attend a reintegration

meeting with the Headteacher or a senior member of staff. At this meeting the behaviour leading to exclusion will be discussed and targets will be set for improvement. Support around behaviour will be also be discussed.

Work Set

When a pupil is excluded for more than one day, work should be set by the school within a reasonable time-scale and this should be returned to the school when the exclusion is over. If a pupil is excluded at the end of a school day, then it may not be possible to arrange for work to be set until the following morning.

A pupil can be excluded for up to 10 continuous days on a fixed term basis. On the 6 continuous day, the school is responsible for providing education for the pupil, which could be at another local school, the pupil referral unit (St Thomas') or by providing home education.

Behaviour outside school

Pupils' behaviour outside school e.g. on school trips, at sports events, is subject to the school's behaviour policy. Unacceptable behaviour in such circumstances will be dealt with as if it had taken place in school; and additionally this includes the any serious breach of policy which could 'bring the school into disrepute'.

Pupils with special educational needs and disabled pupils

The school must take account of any special educational needs when considering whether or not to exclude a pupil.

The Head teacher should ensure that reasonable steps, in line with the DDA have been taken by the school to respond to a pupil's disability so the pupil is not treated less favorably for reasons related to the disability.

Managed move

In cases where the Head of School and parent's agree that the progress of the pupil has been unsatisfactory and the pupil is unwilling or unable to profit from the educational opportunities offered, or if a parents failure to engage in strategies implemented by the school are resulting in a continuing pattern of poor behaviour or lack of improvement in behaviour, the Head teacher may consult with the Local Authority and propose a managed move to another school. This is not exclusion and in such cases the Head teacher may assist the parents in placing the pupil in another school.

Removal from the school for other reasons

The Head teacher may send a pupil home, after consultation with that pupil's parents and a health professional as appropriate, if the pupil poses an immediate and serious risk to the health and safety of other pupils and staff, for example because of a diagnosed illness such as a notifiable disease. This is not an exclusion and should be for the shortest possible time. A pupil cannot be 'sent home' for other reasons, including poor behaviour.

Equal Opportunities

The Governing Body recognise that it is unlawful to take into account anyone's gender, marital status, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, religious beliefs, age, or sexual orientation. Full consideration has been given to this during the formulation of this policy as it is the governors' aim that no-one at NGPS school should suffer discrimination, either directly or indirectly, or harassment on any of these grounds.

Procedure for appeal

If parents wish to appeal the decision to exclude, the matter will be referred to the Governing Body and handled through the school and LA appeal procedure.

Guidance on Fixed Term Exclusions (Based on Local Authority Advice)

Informing Parents Of Exclusion At-A-Glance Guidelines

MUST	SHOULD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify parents/carers immediately- ideally by telephone • Letter within 1 school day specifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Precise period of fixed period exclusion or effective date of permanent exclusion ○ If permanent, that it is permanent ○ Reasons for the exclusion ○ Parents right to make representations to the governing body ○ Parents right to see and have a copy of pupil's school record upon written request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Date and time when pupil should return from fixed period exclusion ○ Any relevant previous history ○ Arrangements for continuing education, including the marking and setting of work ○ Latest date by which governing body must meet ○ Person whom the parent should contact if they wish to make representations (usually the clerk to the governors ○ Name and contact information for Head of Social Inclusion (LEA Officer) ○ ACE exclusions helpline number 0808 800 0327 ○ Information translated as necessary

The Use Of Exclusion: At- Glance-Guidelines For Head Teachers

ILLEGAL/NO GROUNDS	REASONABLE GROUNDS	STRONG GROUNDS
Minor incidents, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to do homework • Failure to bring dinner money 	Breach of the school’s behaviour policy (see possible examples below):	Serious breach of the school’s behaviour policy (see possible examples below)
Poor academic performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious harm to the education or welfare of the pupil or others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing the school into disrepute through inappropriate or dangerous behaviour or seriously endangering the safety of others
Lateness or truancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistently leaving school premises without authorisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplying or using an illegal drug on school premises
Pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing adults or other young people onto school premises with malicious intent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying, threatening to use and or using an offensive weapon (including fireworks)
Breaches of school uniform or rules on appearance, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input type="radio"/> wearing jewelry or displaying body-piercing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing the school into disrepute at a public event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempted arson on school grounds, destruction or serious damage of school property or buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failing to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act by excluding disabled pupils without due regard to their disability or treating them less favourably than others because of their disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistent refusal to co-operate with school staff, verbal aggression towards staff, pupils or other members of the school community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated threats and highly offensive and abusive language towards school staff, pupils or other members of the school community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failing to meet the requirements of the Race Relations Act by excluding pupils or discriminating unfavourably on the grounds of race 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying, racial ,sexual or other harassment of staff, pupils or other members of the school community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated bullying, racial, sexual or other harassment of staff ,pupils or other members of the school community