



The Grange Therapeutic School

EXCLUSION GUIDELINES GP35

POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR STAFF ON EXCLUSION

Reviewed Date: October 2019	1	Policy: Exclusion Guidelines
Next Review: September 2021		Revised by: Ollie SHARP

Introduction

Good discipline is essential to ensure that all pupils can benefit from the opportunities provided by education. The school's behaviour policy outlines expectations and key strategies for good behaviour. The government supports Head Teachers and Head of Schools in using exclusion as a sanction where it is warranted. However, exclusion should only be used as a last resort, in response to a serious breach, or persistent breaches, of the school's behaviour policy; and where allowing a pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school. We as a school recognize that exclusion can be very detrimental to pupils, especially those with attachment difficulties.

Types of exclusion

There are two types of exclusion: Fixed Period and Permanent.

Fixed period exclusions may not be for more than 45 days in any one year.

The decision to exclude

Exclusions will be used sparingly and only if there are serious breaches of the school's behaviour policy or civil law; or if allowing the pupil to remain in school would be seriously detrimental to the education or welfare of the pupil or others. The decision is taken only when all other avenues have been explored or are deemed inadequate.

The Head Teacher holds responsibility for taking the decision to permanently exclude a pupil. However, in the absence of the Head Teacher or other members of the Senior Leadership Team may exclude a pupil for a fixed period.

Permanent exclusion is used as a last resort, when all other reasonable steps have been taken.

A pupil may, in extreme cases, be permanently excluded following a serious "one off" breach of the school's behaviour policy. At The Grange Therapeutic School this could apply in the event of serious or threatened violence against a pupil or member of staff.

The decision to exclude a pupil must be lawful, reasonable and fair. Care is taken not to discriminate against pupils on the basis of protected characteristics, such as disability or race. Particular consideration is given to the fair treatment of pupils from groups who are vulnerable to exclusion.

Exclusion will not be used for minor offences or as a punishment for non-attendance.

Where a pupil is excluded, steps will be taken to refer the pupil for support or to other relevant agencies.

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Fixed period exclusions may not exceed 45 days in any one school year; generally at The Grange Therapeutic School these will be around 1 – 4 days in length.

Criteria for exclusion

The decision to exclude a pupil will always be taken on the basis of Health and Safety. Pupils may be excluded for a fixed period as a consequence of:

- Deliberate physical assault on another pupil
- Deliberate physical assault of a member of staff
- Persistent refusal to comply with the school's behaviour policy
- Excessive damage to property
- Dealing/using illegal substances in school or in school transport
- Extreme racial/sexual abuse
- Extreme bullying
- Extreme threatening behaviour and/or verbal abuse towards staff or other pupils.

In all cases the school will discuss the issues surrounding the exclusion with parents/carers and other relevant agencies and where necessary will arrange meetings to discuss these issues and what action is necessary to address them.

If a pupil is excluded for more than one day, work will be provided for him to complete at home during his absence from school.

Procedures for permanent exclusion

- There must be full consultation and full investigation of any precipitating circumstances. This process will include senior staff, together with any other staff member involved and any other child involved
- Our usual recording procedures must be followed. The proper documenting of event, decisions and action is essential
- Precipitous action should be avoided whenever possible. Permanent exclusions should follow proper consultation and communication with parents, the Local Authority and any other referring or supportive agencies.
- Whenever possible agreement should be reached in consultation with these people, about the exclusion decision. Local Authorities can only provide alternative arrangements (and/or secure alternative school placements) if they are given adequate notice of exclusion proceedings
- If an exclusion is permanent it may be helpful to other agencies for us to liaise with them regarding choice of placement, etc.
- Further meetings for consultation, planning and decision making may need to be arranged
- The school based decision about exclusion will ultimately rest with the Head Teacher in consultation with other senior staff. The opinions of other

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members of staff involved with the child (i.e. residential care workers and teachers) must be taken into account

- In cases of alleged sexual/physical/drug abuse the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will make the initial assessment and then communicate with appropriate outside agencies (Ollie Sharp is the school's lead DSL)
- Sometimes exclusion has, unavoidably, to be arranged urgently. Even then proper arrangements must be made. Parents and Local Authorities will be informed and appropriate travel provision made
- The school recognises that exclusion can present a safeguarding issues and this will be fully considered
- After an exclusion the re-integration will be planned and where appropriate a restorative meeting held.

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