



# **Exclusions Policy**

***Version 1:0***

**Date Released: September 2019**

**Date to be reviewed: September 2020**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

## **Policy Principles**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the advice from the DfE and the school Positive Relationships & Behaviour Management Policy;

The law allows Headteachers to exclude a pupil for up to 45 days in a school year. However, due to pupil's trauma and attachment difficulty in managing groups, alternative strategies will be put in place and only when they have been tried and failed will the exclusion recourse be taken, with the utmost reluctance. Even then, it will only be applied in terms of permanent exclusion:

- in response to repeated, serious breaches of the school's positive relationship and behaviour management policy; and
- if allowing the pupil to remain in the school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or of others in the school.

The Sallygate School will NOT exclude a pupil except as a last resort when there is no other alternative that best suits the needs of the pupil and/or the school community.

All decisions on the permanent exclusion of a pupil will be made in consultation with parents, carers and the placing authority. Appeal against the Headteacher's decision may be made, in the first instance, to Channels and Choices without prejudice to one's statutory rights.

Before any decision over permanent exclusion is made, the Headteacher will:

- consider all the relevant facts and firm evidence to support the allegations made and to take into account the school's policy on equal opportunities. If there is any doubt that the pupil actually did what is alleged, the pupil will not be excluded;
- allow the pupil to give his/her version of events;
- check whether an incident appeared to be provoked by racial or sexual harassment;
- consult others, if necessary, being careful not to involve anyone who may later take part in the statutory review of the decision.

The school accepts its responsibility to maintain discipline and good conduct to secure an orderly learning environment in which teaching and learning can take place. It is appreciated that many pupils excluded from school never get back into education and risk exclusion from society later in life.

The Sallygate School recognises and acknowledges that most, if not all, of its pupils have been placed here as a consequence of their extreme and challenging behaviour in previous schools and that we may present the only remaining solution to their educational and behavioural problems. Therefore The Sallygate School will ensure that all possible alternatives to exclusion have been tried.

## **ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES TO EXCLUSION**

### **1-2 Days' Time Out with Education at Home**

The Headteacher will offer a pupil time out with education at home, for up to two days, if they feel that this is in the best interest of the pupil and/or his/her peers. This decision might be made for the following reasons:

- to break up a prolonged period of unacceptable behaviour, to enable a cooling-off period following an incident;
- if there has been a major trauma/incident which has taken place outside of school which might reasonably be expected to have a negative effect on the pupil's behaviour/attitude. (Absconding from home placement, criminal involvement involving loss of sleep or being held at police station);
- if the pupil is making no effort to manage his/her behaviour and this is having a detrimental effect on the education of others whilst having no perceivable benefit for his/her own education.

### **Time Out with Education at Home for 3 or more days**

The decision to educate a pupil at home for a period of more than two days will not be taken unless there are major difficulties which are threatening the continued placement of the pupil. A meeting (or at the very least consultation) will take place with the pupil, parents/carers, social workers and to discuss the behaviour or attitude which is causing the problem and any underlying reasons for it.

It is considered extremely important that all those involved understand the nature of the difficulty and the modification of behaviour which will be needed for the pupil to respond positively to the placement and gain benefit from it without seriously disrupting the education of other pupils.

Where there has been a significant deterioration in the pupil's attitude and behaviour he and his carers may be asked to sign an individually worded Home-School agreement which will detail the following:

- the support that staff will provide to the pupil.
- the strategies that will be used to defuse any potential problems.
- the actions which the pupil needs to take to respond positively to those strategies.
- the support that the school expects from the carers. (School uniform, homework completion etc.)

### **Permanent Exclusion**

Permanent exclusion is not an option which will be undertaken unless there is felt to be no practical alternative. This situation may be reached for any or all of the following reasons:

- the pupil has assaulted fellow pupils or staff and is considered a danger to them.
- the pupil regularly vandalises school property.
- the pupil is regularly and deliberately disruptive to school lessons and routines causing staff to be withdrawn from the educational support of other pupils.
- the pupil shows no motivation to deal with his behavioural / educational problems.
- the school is not being supported by the carers / parents in their efforts to modify and maintain acceptable levels of behaviour.

