

Sallygate School

Exclusions

Policy

Date Agreed: September 2016

Date of next Review: September 2017

Headteacher signature:

Management Committee Chair signature:

All staff must have access to this policy, and sign to confirm that they have read, understood and will adhere to its contents.

Sallygate School Exclusions Policy

Policy Principles

This policy should be read in conjunction with the advice of the DofE and the school Behaviour Management Policy;

The law allows Head teachers to exclude a pupil for up to 45 days in a school year. However, due to their attachment disorder and 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 discipline 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.

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 Head teacher'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/School Operations Manager 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 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 unacceptable behaviour in previous schools and that we may present the only remaining solution to their educational and behavioural problems. Therefore 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/School Operations Manager 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 / 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 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 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.

Drugs

In the case of misuse of drugs or the incitement of other pupils to take drugs, the school recognises that, whilst, in many cases, exclusion will be the most appropriate course, permanent exclusion may make a young person more vulnerable to exposure to drugs. In this situation, a final decision will only be made after reference to appropriate medical/psychiatric specialists and social services.