

School Exclusion Policy

Arreton CE (Aided) Primary School



Policy No: 4.03	
Signed Headteacher:	Signed Chair of Governors:
	
Date: March 2026	Review by: March 2027

Aims

At Arreton St Georges CE Primary School, we are committed to valuing Inclusion, diversity and 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

Working with parents in partnership, we hope to consistently reinforce the school's expectations as an important factor in every child's success. We want to work 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 child's behaviour so that we can work together in the best interests of pupils to ensure expectations of behaviour are made clear.

Legislation

We follow Government and Isle of Wight guidance and legislation on Exclusions from Maintained Schools.

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 some behaviours 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 child 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 use behaviour data drawn from reports to assess patterns of challenging behaviour in pupils. Where patterns emerge, we will systematically intervene, drawing up an action plan with the child, parent and teacher. The SENCo has overall responsibility for working with partners to draw up the action plan. It is class teacher's, parents' and the child's responsibility, along with any intervention partners, to ensure the action plan is followed.

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

Reasons for 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 either be a very serious incident or the repetition of serious incidents.

Any exclusion will be at the decision of the Headteacher, 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 when a pupil remains in the school building but is excluded from the rest of the school and must work away from their class for a fixed amount of time.

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 child 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; LSA support /outside agency etc)

Temporary / Fixed-Term exclusion

A temporary / fixed term exclusion is when a child 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 child's education, whilst mindful of the seriousness of the breach of policy. It should be seen as a 'breathing space' in which to form strategies and resources to try to address the reasons exclusion occurred and prevent this happening again.

Permanent exclusion

A permanent exclusion is when a child 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.

DFE guidance states

A decision to exclude a pupil permanently should only be taken:

- *in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and*
- *where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.*

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, a member of staff or self;
- Possession or use of an illegal drug /substance or weapon on school premises;
- Persistent bullying;
- Persistent prejudice based harassment or hatred based acts
- Persistent disruption to the education of others through failure to follow school expectations
- Wilful destruction of school premises/property

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.

As this is a last resort, a referral will have been made to the LA Inclusion Service alerting them to the likelihood of further fixed term exclusion/permanent exclusion enabling a strategic plan that goes beyond the measures the school has considered to be put into place. It would be expected that the school has already implemented in school strategies such as pre-exclusion action plans and the associated support mechanisms.

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 such cases the Headteacher 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 Headteacher 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 Headteacher, or in their absence the designated senior leader, 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 child 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; in cases of more than a day's exclusion, ensure that appropriate work is set and that arrangements are in place for it to be marked;
- plan how to address the pupil's needs and integration back into their class on his/her return;
- plan a meeting with 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 child, the child'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 child is collected from school, or, in more severe circumstances the school may contact Social 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 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. The meeting will be recorded on the school re-integration form and a copy retained by the parent, child and school.

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 child 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 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 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 Headteacher 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 favourably for reasons related to the disability.

Removal from the school for other reasons

The Headteacher 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 recognises 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 Arreton St Georges CE Primary 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 appeal will be first made to the Headteacher. If this does not resolve the issue, parents may then refer to the Governing Body to be handled through the school and LA appeal procedure.