



Exclusion Policy (From January 2026)

Approved by:	Board of Governors / Headteacher
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School Lead:	Deputy Headteacher
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Corfe Hills School follows the Department for Education guidance on 'Exclusions from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England August 2024:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>

and further Guidance when or if it is issued by the Department for Education and comes into effect.

This document is intended to give a clear indication to staff, parents/carers and students of the typical circumstances within which the Headteacher will consider using powers to suspend/exclude and the procedures that will be followed in exercising them. Individual circumstances will always be considered.

1.0 Suspensions (fixed term exclusions)

A suspension (fixed term exclusion) is a significant step in the disciplinary process. Examples of when a suspension might be issued include:

- Persistent or ongoing disruption to the learning environment.
- Defiance by sustained challenge to the authority of staff.
- The use of foul or abusive language towards a member of staff.
- Violence against another student or a member of staff.
- Intimidating behaviour, bullying, harassment or abuse (including on the grounds of gender, race, ethnicity, age, religion or sexual orientation).
- Persistent defiance of a school rule or rules.
- Dangerous, potentially dangerous behaviour or acts of vandalism.
- Sexual harassment, abuse or violence.
- Bringing vapes/tobacco or alcohol onto the school site.
- Being with someone who is vaping/smoking or using drugs.
- Conduct in school or in the immediate vicinity of the school which is likely to bring the school into disrepute. This includes when student is wearing uniform outside the school or can be linked to the school.
- Vaping/smoking on the school site.
- Returning to the school site during a suspension.
- Failure to attend or truancy from the ARC (Academic Reintegration Centre).
- Behaviour that negatively impacts on the safety or wellbeing of students or staff.

This list is not exhaustive but an indication of the type of behaviour that will result in a suspension. The duration of the suspension will depend on the seriousness of the incident. If the behaviour is more serious or persistent, a permanent exclusion might be issued.

The Headteacher does not operate a fixed tariff system and each incident will be considered individually.

2.0 Off-site direction and managed moves

Before taking any decision to permanently exclude a pupil, the headteacher will consider whether a direction to attend alternative provision and/or a managed move as part of a planned intervention would be a reasonable alternative that should be considered.

3.0 Permanent Exclusion

A student may be permanently excluded for a one-off offence which is deemed to be extremely serious and have a seriously damaging effect on the life of the school or the well-being of other students or of staff.

This can include but is not limited by:

- Serious violence or an act which creates significant fear and anxiety among staff or students.
- Possession of an offensive weapon on the school site.
- Being involved with illegal drugs on the school site. This includes bringing drugs onto the school site, distributing drugs and/or using illegal drugs on the school site.

In addition, a student may become permanently excluded if they are persistently found to be involved in the incidents listed under suspensions and where allowing the student to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or others such as staff or pupils in the school.

4.0 Decisions on Suspensions/Permanent Exclusions

There are clear procedures in the school for investigating incidents that occurs and collecting statements. Where possible, statements will be collected from the suspended/permanently excluded student, the victim, other witnesses and staff. Where necessary, witness statements will be anonymised if this information needs to be presented to Governors in a review meeting. Following a full investigation, the Headteacher will review what has taken place.

The decision to suspend / exclude will be taken:

- By the Headteacher or, in their absence, the Deputy Headteacher. The power to suspend/permanently exclude cannot be delegated.
- On all the evidence available at the time.
- On the balance of probabilities.

5.0 Informing Parents/Carers of the Suspension/Permanent Exclusion

Parents/carers will be informed by telephone on the day that the decision to suspend/permanently exclude has been taken. This decision will be communicated in writing and a letter posted by the school. If a suspension/permanent exclusion will prevent a student from taking a public examination, then the Chair of Governors will be informed immediately so that s/he can review the decision or convene a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee before the examination takes place.

6.0 The Review and Appeals Process

The review and appeals process will be carried in accordance with the Guidance. For all suspensions totalling 5 days but not more than 15 days, the parents/carers have the right to request a meeting of the Governors to review the Headteacher's decision to suspend if they are unhappy with the school's decision. For suspensions totalling 5 days or fewer, the Governors are unable to change the decision of the Headteacher to suspend.

For suspensions totalling over 15 days in one school term and for permanent exclusions, the Governors are required to meet to review the Headteacher's decision to suspend.

The Governors do not have the power to reduce or increase the length of any suspension that the Headteacher has applied.

If the Governors decline to reinstate a student who has been permanently excluded, the parent/carer may appeal to an Independent Review Panel.

7.0 Work for Suspended Students

- The school will provide work for students who are suspended from 1 to 5 days.
- For suspensions over 5 days duration, the school will organise full time education off site.

8.0 Reintegration

- Students returning to school after a suspension are expected to attend a reintegration meeting at the school with their parent/carer. The purpose of the reintegration meeting is to ensure that the student has a successful return to school by reminding the student of the school's expectations and identifying support needed for the student. A support programme, including a Pastoral Support Plan, will be set up if appropriate.

9.0 Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher will report in accordance with the Guidance on the incidence of both suspensions and permanent exclusions to the Governing Body. The Governors will review the operation of the School's exclusion policy annually in consultation with the Headteacher and other relevant staff.

This policy has been assessed for negative impact on equality and diversity.