Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Arrangements

Spring Term 2026

Introduction and Purpose

At Elloughton Primary School, we value the importance of relationships. We believe that children need to feel safe, secure, and comfortable with the adults around them to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our behaviour management system is based on recognising desired behaviours and ensuring there are consequences for unacceptable behaviour. Our goal is to cultivate a culture that promotes high standards of behaviour, enabling all our pupils to achieve and thrive in a safe, calm, and supportive environment. Every member of our school community plays a crucial role in maintaining the highest standards of behaviour at all times.

This policy sets out the arrangements for suspension and permanent exclusion and reflects current statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education and local procedures provided by the Local Authority. Suspension and permanent exclusion are serious sanctions and will only be used as a last resort. The school will always aim to support pupils to remain in education and will consider preventative and supportive strategies before exclusion wherever possible. This document should be read alongside the school Behaviour Policy, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Legal Framework

This policy is based on the statutory guidance 'Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England'. We follow this guidance when making decisions about suspensions and permanent exclusions. The school also complies with duties under the Equality Act 2010 and considers its safeguarding responsibilities when making exclusion decisions.

Principles

The Headteacher has the authority to suspend or permanently exclude a pupil for disciplinary reasons.

Any decision will be lawful, reasonable and fair. Decisions will be made on the balance of probabilities, meaning that it is more likely than not that the behaviour occurred.

Suspension or permanent exclusion will only occur:

- In response to serious breaches of the behaviour policy, and/or
- Where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others.

Before making a decision, the Headteacher will consider:

- All available evidence
- The pupil's age and stage of development
- If the pupil has SEND

- If the incident may have been a result of unmet needs
- Whether alternative strategies have been used.

Behaviour That May Lead to Suspension of Permanent Exclusion

Suspension or permanent exclusion may be considered where a pupil's behaviour represents a serious breach of the behaviour policy.

Examples include:

- Assault or attempted assault on staff or another pupil
- Possession of a weapon or prohibited item
- Serious verbal abuse or threatening behaviour towards staff
- Bullying, including racist, homophobic or cyber bullying
- Persistent disruptive or defiant behaviour
- Serious behaviour causing distress to pupils or staff
- Repeated refusal to comply with sanctions or expectations
- Breach of agreed behaviour expectations or support plans

This list is not exhaustive and the Headteacher may decide that suspension or permanent exclusion is appropriate in other circumstances.

Types of Exclusion

Internal Exclusion

The school may remove a pupil from their normal classroom for a limited period while an incident is investigated or as part of behaviour management strategies. Pupils will remain supervised on the school site and continue to complete learning activities.

Suspension

A suspension is when a pupil is temporarily removed from school for a fixed period due to disciplinary reasons.

A pupil may be suspended for one or more periods, but the total number of days must not exceed 45 school days in any academic year.

Parents will be informed without delay and the decision will be confirmed in writing.

Permanent Exclusion

Permanent exclusion means the pupil is no longer allowed to attend the school. This is the most serious sanction and will only be used where:

- There has been a serious breach of the behaviour policy.
- Allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others.
- Previous interventions and suspensions have not improved behaviour.

Procedures Following a Suspension

Parents will be notified immediately of the decision to suspend a pupil, normally by telephone and followed by written confirmation.

During the first five school days of a suspension, parents are responsible for ensuring that their child is not present in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification.

The school will set work for the pupil to complete during the suspension.

Where a suspension is six school days or longer, the school or Local Authority will arrange suitable alternative education provision from the sixth school day.

Reintegration Following Suspension

Following a suspension, the school will usually arrange a reintegration meeting with parents or carers and the pupil.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Support the pupil's successful return to school
- Discuss the incident and expectations for future behaviour
- Identify any support required
- Agree a reintegration plan if necessary

The school may implement additional monitoring or support measures to help prevent further incidents.

Permanent Exclusion Suspension

Where the Headteacher decides to permanently exclude a pupil, parents will be informed immediately and in writing.

The notification will include:

- The reasons for the decision
- The date the exclusion takes effect
- Information about the right to make representations to the governing body
- Details of the right to request an Independent Review Panel

The Local Authority is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education from the sixth school day following a permanent exclusion.

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has a statutory duty to review certain suspension and permanent exclusion decisions.

The Governing Body must meet to consider reinstatement where:

• The exclusion is permanent.

• The suspension would bring the pupil's total days of exclusion to more than 15 days in a term.

• The exclusion would result in a pupil missing a public examination.

The Governing Body will consider all evidence and decide whether to uphold the exclusion or direct reinstatement.

Equality Considerations

The school recognises its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

When making decisions about suspension or permanent exclusion, the school will consider whether the behaviour may be linked to a disability or special educational need.

Reasonable adjustments may include:

• Individual support plans

• Mentoring or pastoral support

• Targeted interventions

• Specialist support services

However, the law does not prevent a pupil with SEND from being suspended or permanently excluded where behaviour seriously breaches the school's behaviour policy.

Support and Early Intervention

Elloughton Primary School aims to identify and support pupils whose behaviour may indicate unmet needs.

Support strategies may include:

• Behaviour targets and monitoring

• Regular communication with parents

• Individual support plans

• Early Help assessments

• Referrals to specialist services

External support may involve:

• Educational Psychologist

• Behaviour Support Team

• Family Support Services

• Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

• Inclusion Practitioner.

Managed Moves

In some cases, a managed move to another school may be considered as an alternative to permanent exclusion. Managed moves will only occur with the agreement of parents and the receiving school and will follow Local Authority protocols.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing body will monitor the use of suspensions and permanent exclusions to ensure that they are applied fairly and consistently.

The policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if there are changes to statutory guidance.

Local Authority model letters:

1. Model letter – Up to 5 days suspension
2. Model letter – Up to and including 15 school days
3. Model letter – More than 15 school days

Adoption, Approval, Sign Off

Signed	**Mrs Fulstow**
On behalf of	Full Governing Body
Date	Spring Term 2026

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