

Exclusion Policy

January 2012

Reviewed annually by the governing body



Introduction

The Priory Primary Academy Trust is proud of our children's exemplary behaviour. In the most recent inspection of the School, (March 2010), behaviour was judged to be "outstanding":

Outstanding behaviour creates an extremely positive ethos, ensuring that lessons suffer no unnecessary interruptions and excellent learning is the norm. (Ofsted)

It is our aim to ensure that high standards of behaviour are maintained at all times. We believe it is the responsibility of everyone in the Academy community to ensure that behaviour is at all times as good as it is possible to be. Children are well aware of the high expectations and they flourish within the security of the boundaries provided by the Academy.

There is a pupil discipline policy which is reviewed annually by the Governing Body and this is available on the School website, www.theprioryprimaryschool.org. Children know that there is a code of acceptable behaviour and are aware that there is a clear system of sanctions and rewards.

The pupil discipline policy clearly demonstrates the steps in the Academy's disciplinary procedure. The School acknowledges that for the most serious incidents, exclusion may be the only effective sanction at its disposal.

In the case of a pupil exclusion, the legal guidelines from the Department for Education will be followed. This guidance is contained in *Improving Behaviour and Attendance: guidance on exclusion from schools and Pupil Referral Units (DCSF September 2008)* and its suite of associated documents which can be found at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/exclusion/2008guidance>

Principles

In England, there are two different types of exclusion from school. The first is called fixed term exclusion, where the child may be excluded from school for a specified amount of time. The second type of exclusion is permanent exclusion where the child cannot return to the School. Permanent exclusion is seen as a last resort and will only occur when all other methods of discipline have failed to improve the behaviour of the child. Fixed term exclusion will be resorted to when the child has broken the School rules to the extent that other lighter punishments (such as detention) will not suffice.

The official guidelines for the exclusion process are that the Head Teacher must give a written notice to the parents informing them of:

- the precise period and the reasons for the exclusion
- the duties of the parent(s)/guardian(s) during the first five days
- the right of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to make representation to the Governing Body and how the pupil may be involved in this
- the person the parent(s)/guardian(s) should contact if they wish to make such representation
- the arrangement made by the School to set and mark work for the pupil during the initial 5 days of the exclusion;
- if relevant, the School day on which the pupil will be provided with full-time education

- if relevant, details of a reintegration interview.

This is in addition to the Academy's obligation to contact the parent or guardian as soon as the decision to exclude has been made to ensure that the child can be supervised during their exclusion.

The Head Teacher must inform the Governing Body if a pupil is being excluded for more than 15 days in any one term. Pupils can be excluded for one or more fixed periods, which when aggregated, do not exceed 45 school days in any one school year.

All parents/carers have the right to make representations to the Governors' Discipline Committee about their child's exclusion. The Committee does not have to meet by law to review the exclusion unless the pupil has accumulated at least 16 days exclusion in any one term unless the parent wishes to make representations about an exclusion of fewer days. The governors do not have the powers to direct reinstatement for exclusions under 6 days but they should still consider the views of parents, if that is their wish. Parents will be invited to attend the meeting, along with the child if this is appropriate, so that governors can take account of parents' views, alongside those of the Head Teacher, when considering the exclusion.

Governors must have regard to current Department for Education guidance on exclusion and have the power to uphold or reduce the length of the exclusion but they cannot recommend that it be extended. There are no rights of appeal for fixed period exclusions.

From the 6th consecutive day of the exclusion the Academy is compelled to provide provisions for full-time education.

Permanent exclusion

A permanent exclusion may be used as a last resort by the Head Teacher when it is acknowledged that, despite interventions, the School can no longer manage the behaviour of a pupil **or** when the incident is so serious that a pupil's return to the School is considered inappropriate. Types of behaviour for which permanent exclusion will be considered are:

- persistent and/or malicious disruptive behaviour, including open defiance or refusal to conform with agreed school policies
- serious, actual or threatened violence against another pupil or member of staff
- sexual abuse
- drug abuse
- presenting a significant risk to the health and safety of other pupils (e.g. selling illegal drugs).

The parents and the child will be given the opportunity to make any representations about the exclusion to the Governors' Discipline Committee. At the meeting, Governors will consider the views of the Head Teacher, parents and the local authority and they have the power to either uphold the exclusion, reinstate the child or reduce the permanent exclusion to a fixed period exclusion of a stated number of days. Should Governors uphold the permanent exclusion, parents then have a legal right of appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel.