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Lanesend Primary School

Child Exclusion Policy Statutory Policy

Signed: Date:
(Headteacher)

Signed: Date:
(Chair of Governors)

Review Date: November 2021 (Every 3 Years)
Reviewed By: Headteacher and Child Centred Group

Lanesend Primary **Child Exclusion Policy**

Lanesend Primary School is committed to valuing diversity and to equality of opportunity. We aim to create and promote an environment in which children, families and staff are treated fairly and with respect, and feel able to contribute to the best of their abilities.

Partnership with Families

Families working in partnership with the school to consistently reinforce the school's expectations are an important factor in every child's success. At Lanesend Primary School, we will work in partnership with families to ensure that expectations are clear and families can reinforce them with their children. This includes ensuring that families are kept informed about decisions made in response to a child's behaviour so that we can work together in the best interests of children to ensure expectations for positive behaviour are made clear.

The school is responsible for communicating to children, families and staff the expectations of positive behaviour. A range of policies and procedures are in place to promote positive behaviour and good conduct. These are:

- Behaviour Policy;
- Anti-Bullying Policy;
- Home-School Agreement

Supporting Children to Succeed

We aim to include, not exclude, and we approach all challenging behaviour in a supportive and positive way. We recognise that such behaviour 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 will use behaviour observations to assess patterns of challenging behaviour in children. Where patterns emerge we will systematically intervene, drawing up an action plan with the child, family and teacher.

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

Reasons for exclusion:

- Very serious breach of the school's rules or policies;
- Serious risk of harm to the education or welfare of the child 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 team (particularly if they were involved in investigating the incident).

Types of Exclusion

1. Internal Exclusion

Internal exclusion is when a child is excluded from the rest of the school and must work away from their class for a fixed amount of time. This will be in a different classroom.

An internal exclusion is a discretionary measure, where a child'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; support from the AEN or Family Wellbeing Team etc)

2. 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.

3. 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.

Reasons for Exclusion

A decision to exclude a child, 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 child or a member of staff;
- Persistent bullying;
- Persistent prejudice based harassment or hatred based acts
- Persistent behaviour that disrupts the education of other children over a period of time

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.

These would be imposed only when the school had already offered and implemented a range of support and management strategies. These could be joint action plans with families, child and school, behaviour intervention with the AEN Team, Family Wellbeing Team and Headteacher, target setting, home/school communication book etc.

The length of an exclusion will depend upon a number of factors, such as the severity of the incident, and the likely impact on the child's learning and ability to succeed on returning to school. Such decisions will be made in the best interests of the child, whilst also mindful of the need to maintain order and reinforce the rules and expectations of the school in a clear and consistent way.

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 the most serious cases where the problem persists and there is no improvement a permanent exclusion may be necessary.

In such cases the Headteacher or Deputy Head will investigate the incident and consider all evidence to support the allegation, taking account of the school's policies. The child 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 decides to exclude a child he/she will:

- ensure that there is sufficient recorded evidence to support the decision;
- explain the decision to the child if the child is in the state of mind to listen to the decision
- contact the families, explain the decision and ask that the child be collected;

- send a letter to the families confirming the reasons for the exclusion, whether it is a permanent or temporary exclusion;
- determine the length of the exclusion and any terms or conditions agreed for the child'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 child's needs and integration back into their class on his/her return;
- plan a meeting with families and child 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 child at risk. In cases where families 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 child off site.

Re-integration

After fixed term exclusion the child and parent will be requested to attend a reintegration meeting with the Headteacher or Deputy Head. 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 child 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 child can be excluded for up to 10 continuous days on a fixed term basis. On the 6th continuous day, the school is responsible for providing education for the child, which could be at another local school, the child referral unit or by providing home education.

Behaviour outside school

Children' behaviour outside school **on school business** 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 the any serious breach of policy which could 'bring the school into disrepute'.

Children with Additional Educational Needs and disabled children

The school must take account of any additional educational needs when considering whether or not to exclude a child.

The Headteacher should ensure that reasonable steps, in line with the DDA have been taken by the school to respond to a child's disability so the child is not treated less favourably for reasons related to the disability.

Managed move

In cases where the Headteacher and parent's agree that the progress of the child has been unsatisfactory and the child is unwilling or unable to profit from the educational opportunities offered, or if a families failure to engage in strategies implemented by the school are resulting in a continuing pattern of poor behaviour or lack of improvement in behaviour, the Headteacher may consult with the Local Authority and propose a managed move to another school. This is not exclusion and in such cases the Headteacher may assist the families in placing the child in another school.

Removal from the school for other reasons

The Headteacher may send a child home, after consultation with that child's families and a health professional as appropriate, if the child poses an immediate and serious risk to the health and safety of other children 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 child cannot be 'sent home' for other reasons, including poor behaviour.

Equal Opportunities

The Governing Body recognise 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 Lanesend Primary School should suffer discrimination, either directly or indirectly, or harassment on any of these grounds.

Reintegration meeting

After every period of fixed term exclusion the parent and child will be offered a reintegration meeting with the Headteacher or Deputy Head. At this meeting targets will be agreed for improving behaviour and a written agreement produced for all parties to sign.

Procedure for appeal

If families wish to appeal the decision to exclude, the matter will be referred to the Governing Body and handled through the school and LA appeal procedure.