



Best Futures Exclusion Policy

Date Updated – July 2023

Produced by – Steve Davies and Rose Best

Lead Officers – Dawn Best

CIC Input by – Steve Davies and Rose Best

Status – Current

Review Date – July 2025 or sooner if legislation is updated

Best Futures is committed to valuing diversity and equality of opportunity. We aim to create and promote an environment in which pupils, parents/carers and staff are treated fairly and with respect and feel able to contribute to the best of their abilities.

Partnership with parents/carers working in partnership with the school to consistently reinforce the school's expectations is an important factor in every child's success. At Best Futures, we will work in partnership with parents/carers to ensure that expectations are clear, and parents/carers can reinforce them with their children. This includes ensuring that parents/carers 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 for behaviour are made clear.

The school is responsible for communicating to pupils, parents/carers and staff its expectations of standards of conduct. A range of policies and procedures are in place to promote good behaviour and appropriate conduct. These are:

- Positive Management of Behaviour Policy;
- Anti-Bullying Policy;
- 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 data to assess patterns of challenging behaviour in pupils. Where patterns emerge, we will systematically intervene, drawing up an action plan with the child, parent/carer and teacher. The senior leadership team has overall responsibility for sharing data with class teachers and analysing the data.

It is the class teacher's, carers and the child's responsibility to ensure the action plan is followed. 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:

- 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 Executive Principal, 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 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 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; support from staff 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.

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 Executive Principal will consult with senior leaders and the CIC Board as soon as possible in such a case.

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.

Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff

Persistent bullying

Persistent prejudice-based harassment or hatred-based acts

Actions which put the student or others in danger.

Verbal abuse of staff, pupils and others

Physical abuse of/attack on staff

Physical abuse of/attack on students

Indecent behaviour

Damage to property

Possession or use of illegal substances on school premises;

Theft

Sexual abuse or assault.

Carrying an offensive weapon.

Arson.

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 parents/carers, child and school, behaviour intervention with the pupils class lead, 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 Executive Principal 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 Executive Principal will check whether the incident may have been provoked, for example by bullying or racial harassment. The CIC Board will be informed of all exclusions on a termly basis; and additional consultation may also take place about key incidents with the Chair of CIC Board.

The decision to exclude

If the Executive Principal 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/carers, explain the decision and ask that the child be collected;

- Send a letter to the parents/carers 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/carers 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/carers 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 also be discussed. The meeting will be recorded on the school re-integration form and a copy retained by the parent/carer, 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 timescale 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-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 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 to exclude a pupil. The Executive Principal 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.

Managed move

In cases where the Executive Principal and parent's agree that the progress of the pupil has been unsatisfactory and the pupil is unwilling or unable to profit from the educational opportunities offered, or if a parents 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 Executive Principal may consult with the Local Authority and propose a managed move to another school. This is not exclusion and in such cases the Executive Principal may assist the parents in placing the pupil in another school.

Removal from the school for other reasons

The Executive Principal 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 CIC Board 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 CIC's aim that no-one at Best Futures 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 a senior member of school's staff. At this meeting targets will be agreed for improving behaviour and a written agreement produced for all parties to sign.

Procedure for appeal

If parents wish to appeal the decision to exclude, the matter will be referred to the CIC Board and handled through the school and LA appeal procedure.

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| Executive Principal: | D H Best | Signature | <i>D H Best</i> | Date: | 25.04.25 |
| CIC Board Member: | S J Davies | Signature | <i>SJ Davies</i> | Date: | 10/07/2023 |
| CIC Board Member: | R Best | Signature | <i>Rose Best</i> | Date | 17/07/2023 |