

Dinglewell Junior School
Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy
Reviewed: June 2024 (FGB)
Next review: June 2025

Dinglewell Junior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

"We have carefully considered & analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the public sector equality duty requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality or opportunity and foster good relations."

Introduction

It is the policy of Dinglewell Junior School to try to deal with all behavioural issues in an active positive way, employing a wide range of strategies. However, should the need for exclusion arise, following a sustained period of unacceptable behaviour or a single case of an extremely dangerous and/or violent act. Suspension refers to a fixed period of exclusion.

Steps taken to avoid exclusion

Children whose behaviour is causing a concern are the children who regularly fail to respond to the expectations set out in the school's Behaviour Policy. At this stage, the class teacher should alert the Pastoral Manager, Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher of their concerns and discuss the best course of action to take.

Vulnerable Learners

- Children with special education needs: We will make sure every effort is made to support children with special educational needs and do our upmost to avoid permanently excluding any of these children, other than in the most exceptional circumstances.
- Disabled pupils: We have a duty under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 not to discriminate against any children by excluding them from school because of a behaviour caused by their disability. Discrimination is seen as occurring where a disabled child is treated less favourably than other children for a reason relating to their disability without justification.
- Discrimination: The school will endeavour to take all reasonable steps so that disabled pupils are not placed at any disadvantages compared to their non-disabled peers.
- Children from racial minorities: The law places specific duties on us as a school to ensure we do not discriminate against any child on racial grounds. We will

monitor and analyse any exclusions by ethnicity to ensure we do not treat any groups of children more harshly than others.

- Children in care: Exclusion of any child in school that is a looked after child will only happen as a last resort, in conjunction with our Local Authority. We will ensure all options have been thoroughly investigated before exclusion.

Suspension procedure:

- The child will be suspended, initially for a period of 1 - 3 days
- Parents/Carers will be notified immediately by telephone and asked to collect the child from school
- They will be given a formal letter outlining the reason for the suspension, the suspension process and details of procedures they may wish to adopt e.g. appeals procedure
- The Chair of the school's Governing Body will be notified at the time of the suspension along with the appropriate agencies at Gloucestershire County Council
- The school will also work to put in place a support programme for the child upon their return to school
- The package will include input from staff at the school, parents/carers, agencies from Gloucestershire County Council and if deemed appropriate the child

Children returning from a suspension

All children returning to school after a suspension are required to attend a reintegration meeting, accompanied by their parents/carers. This meeting will seek to establish practical ways in which further suspensions can be avoided and behaviour modified to acceptable school standards.

Permanent Exclusions

The school will never permanently exclude a child without trying to improve their behaviour by working with them and their parents/carers. However, there are on occasion exceptional circumstances in which the Head Teacher may decide to permanently exclude a child because of ongoing issues or even for a one-off incident.

If a child is permanently excluded;

- The school's Governing Body is required to review the Head Teacher's decision and parents/carers may meet with the school's Governing Body to explain their (parents) views on the exclusion
- If the school's Governing Body confirms the exclusion, parents/carers are permitted to appeal to an independent panel organised by the Local Authority
- We must include all details of how parents/carers can lodge an appeal and the school in conjunction with the Local Authority must provide full-time education from the sixth day of a permanent exclusion

Relationship to other school policies

The Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Behaviour Policy as well as other relevant school policies, particularly the school's

Inclusion Policy, Special Educational Needs Policy, Equality & Diversity Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, GDPR Policy and Attendance Policy.