

The Learning Academy Trust Exclusion Policy

St Merryn School

At St Merryn our aim is to engender mutual respect and manners amongst all members of our school community. We aim to create a positive learning environment and to maximise the quality of the children's learning experience. Furthermore we wish to enable children to understand and control their own behaviour.

By having clear standards and expectations and positively reinforcing good behaviour, much inappropriate behaviour is avoided.

Exclusion is not a preferred option of the school but we acknowledge that in certain circumstances it is appropriate. A child will only be excluded as a last resort as a result of serious breaches of our behaviour policy or of the criminal law. A child would be excluded when allowing him/her to remain in school would be seriously detrimental to the education or welfare of the child or others in the school.

Serious misbehaviour that may result in exclusion

- Persistent refusal to carry out reasonable instructions issued by the school staff
- Serious or persistent physical assault of children or staff
- Persistent verbal abuse directed at children or school staff
- Serious or persistent theft
- Wilful possession or misuse of drugs or other illegal/dangerous substances
- Serious sexual abuse
- Serious or persistent racial abuse
- Serious or persistent vandalism on the school site

Other circumstances may arise when the Headteacher decides it would be appropriate to exclude a child. In all cases, the parents/carers of any excluded child will be fully informed of the reason(s) for exclusion.

The Headteacher may exclude a child for up to 45 days in any school year. This would only be used in extreme cases and include a planned reintegration.

Any exclusion would be reported to the Local Advisory Board.

There are two types of exclusion, Fixed Period Exclusion and Permanent Exclusion.

Fixed Period Exclusion

This is limited up to 15 days in any one term. The length of exclusion is determined by the Headteacher depending on the severity of the offence. The first exclusion will usually last between 2 and 5 days. This may be lengthened up to 5 days to allow the Headteacher more time to talk to parents and set out appropriate plans. It may be appropriate to establish a series of short fixed periods of exclusion within one term, the aggregate exclusion not exceeding 15 days.

During any exclusion, work will be sent home for the child and returned to school for marking.

When a lengthy exclusion is undertaken, the Headteacher will arrange a meeting with the Local Advisory Board (LAB), within a maximum of three working days, to agree this action. At this meeting a reintegration plan will be formulated. Parents will be informed how to challenge the exclusion if they want to.

During the course of a fixed period exclusion where the pupil is to be at home, parents are advised that the pupil is not allowed on the school premises and that daytime supervision is their responsibility as parents/carers

Permanent Exclusion

A permanent exclusion means a child is expelled. The decision to exclude a pupil permanently is a serious one. There are two main types of situation in which permanent exclusion may be considered.

1. The final, formal step in a concerted process for dealing with disciplinary offences following the use of a wide range of other strategies, which have been used without success. It is an acknowledgement that all available strategies have been exhausted and is used as a last resort.
2. When a serious criminal act has been committed, the school will involve the police in any such offence.

Challenging Exclusion

Parents can challenge fixed term exclusions if a pupil has been excluded for more than 5 school days in a term or exclusion will mean they will miss a national curriculum test. For an exclusion of 5 school days or less, parents can ask the governing body to consider their views.

Parents can challenge permanent exclusion with the LAB. If the governors agree with the exclusion, parents can appeal to The Learning Academy Trust. The LAB must tell parents how to do this.

Useful reading:

A Guide to Education Welfare Services for Parents and Carers:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/16361057/exclusion-from-school-leaflet.pdf>