

Suspensions and permanent exclusions policy



Daven
Primary School

Person Responsible for the Policy	Headteacher
Date Approved	September 2026
Signed	J Gosling
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Audience	Governors, Staff and Parents/Carers

Suspensions

At Daven Primary, we are committed to fostering a learning environment where all pupils feel safe, supported, and inspired to be brave, kind and curious. We believe that every child can learn from mistakes and that positive relationships, restorative approaches, and appropriate support should be used wherever possible to help pupils succeed.

Suspensions are an important behaviour management tool and may be used when all reasonable and proportionate strategies have been considered, or when a serious incident makes a suspension necessary. The purpose of a suspension is to maintain a calm, safe and supportive environment for all pupils and staff, whilst supporting the pupil to reflect on their behaviour and successfully reintegrate into school. Permanent exclusion will only ever be considered as a last resort.

Only the **Headteacher**, or the **Deputy Headteacher when acting under delegated authority in the Headteacher's absence**, may suspend a pupil.

A suspension may be considered in circumstances including, but not limited to:

1. **Serious breaches** of the school's behaviour policy.
2. **Repeated breaches** of the school's behaviour policy despite appropriate support and intervention.
3. **Persistent disruption** that significantly impacts the learning of others.
4. **Defiant refusal** to engage with reasonable behaviour support, restorative work, or agreed consequences.
5. **Persistent disruption** whilst in time out, internal reflection, or alternative provision within school.
6. **Aggressive, threatening or unsafe behaviour** towards pupils or staff.
7. **Behaviour that seriously undermines the safety, welfare or education** of others.
8. **Bullying, discriminatory behaviour, harassment or intimidation**, including racist, homophobic, sexist or disability-related incidents.
9. **Behaviour outside of school** where there is a clear link to the school and where suspension is lawful, reasonable, fair and proportionate.

When considering a suspension, the Headteacher will:

- Consider all relevant evidence and circumstances.
- Take account of the pupil's age and understanding.
- Consider whether the incident may be linked to SEND, a disability, safeguarding concerns, mental health needs, or other vulnerabilities.
- Ensure decisions are lawful, reasonable, fair and proportionate.
- Make decisions on the balance of probabilities.

The length of a suspension will be determined by the severity of the incident and the individual circumstances of the case. No pupil may be suspended for more than **45 school days in a single academic year**.

The school will provide work during any suspension and will work with families to support the pupil's continued education and successful return to school. Following every suspension, a **reintegration meeting** will normally be offered to help the pupil make a positive fresh start and to identify any further support required.

Suspension data will be regularly monitored by the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and pastoral staff to identify patterns, evaluate support strategies and ensure that suspensions remain proportionate and fair.

Permanent exclusion

A decision to permanently exclude a pupil is a serious and final step and will only be taken:

- In response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and
- Where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school community.

Permanent exclusion will only be used as a last resort, after the school has considered and, where appropriate, implemented reasonable adjustments, pastoral support, early intervention, external agency involvement, alternative strategies, and other behaviour support measures, unless the incident is so serious that immediate permanent exclusion is justified.

The Headteacher will make any decision to permanently exclude based on the facts of the case, statutory guidance, and the individual circumstances of the pupil.

In exceptional circumstances, a permanent exclusion may be appropriate for a first or one-off offence. This may include, but is not limited to:

- a) A serious actual or threatened physical assault against another pupil, member of staff or other person.
- b) Sexual violence or sexual assault.
- c) Carrying, possessing or using an offensive weapon.
- d) Behaviour that places pupils, staff or members of the public at significant risk of serious harm.
- e) Serious criminal behaviour connected to the school.

These examples are not exhaustive but illustrate the seriousness of behaviour that may justify permanent exclusion.

The Headteacher may also consider permanent exclusion where there is:

- Persistent and severe disruption to learning.
- Repeated serious defiance that significantly impacts the education or welfare of others.
- Serious bullying, including racist, homophobic, transphobic, disability-related or other discriminatory bullying.
- Repeated possession, supply or use of illegal drugs.

- Behaviour linked to extremism or radicalisation that presents a risk to others.
- Any other exceptionally serious behaviour that would seriously undermine the safety, welfare, discipline or good order of the school if the pupil remained on roll.

Before reaching a decision to permanently exclude, the Headteacher will consider:

- The school's duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Any special educational needs or disabilities.
- Any social, emotional, mental health or safeguarding factors.
- The support and interventions already provided.
- The views of the pupil, where appropriate.
- Whether alternative strategies, managed moves or other arrangements have been explored and are suitable.

Where appropriate, and where it is considered to be in the best interests of the pupil and school community, an off-site direction (temporary measure) or managed move (permanent measure) or other alternative arrangement may be explored before permanent exclusion is considered.

However, the school reserves the right to permanently exclude immediately where the seriousness of the incident warrants such action.

This policy reflects Daven Primary's commitment to maintaining a safe, respectful and inclusive environment where every child can thrive, whilst ensuring that suspension and permanent exclusion are used lawfully, fairly, proportionately and in accordance with current Department for Education statutory guidance.