

TLP

Pupil Suspension and Exclusion Policy Statement



THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

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Revisions Log

Date	Pages/Whole Document	Description of Change	Origin of Change (e.g. Routine Update, request for Review)

Pupil Suspension and Exclusion Policy Statement

1 Introduction

The Learning Partnership Academies Trust is committed to creating a safe and supportive learning environment for all pupils. We believe in maintaining high standards of behaviour through consistent and fair practices. This policy outlines our approach to exclusions, aligning with the Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance.

2 Policy Aims

1. To ensure a safe and conducive learning environment for all pupils and staff.
2. To provide a clear framework for the management of pupil behaviour.
3. To uphold the principles of fairness, consistency, and non-discrimination in the exclusion process.

3 Adoption of DfE Guidance

This policy will adopt the latest DfE statutory guidance on suspensions and permanent exclusions. The version available at the time of adopting this Policy Statement was the procedures effective from 1 September 2024.

The guidance informs our procedures and decisions, ensuring that exclusions are lawful, reasonable, and fair.

4 Grounds for Suspension and Exclusion

A pupil may be excluded on disciplinary grounds, such as:

- Serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy.
- Risk to the welfare of staff and pupils or the pupil's education if they remain in school.

5 Considerations before a Suspension and Exclusion

Before deciding to suspend or exclude, the Headteacher/Principal will consider:

- The severity of the incident and its impact on the school community.
- The pupil's individual circumstances, including any special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities.
- Whether alternative measures have been explored.

6 Procedure for Exclusion

Decision-Making: Only the Headteacher/Principal can take the decision to exclude a pupil. The Headteacher/Principal will normally consult with the designated safeguarding lead, senior school staff and other relevant parties, including the Trust's Director of Phase (primary or secondary).

When establishing the facts in relation to a suspension or permanent exclusion decision the Headteacher/Principal must apply the civil standard of proof, i.e. 'on the balance of probabilities' it is more likely than not that a fact is true, rather than the criminal standard of 'beyond reasonable doubt.'

Notification: Parents/carers, the governing board, and the local authority (LA) will be informed of the exclusion decision without delay.

Recording and Reporting: All exclusions will be documented, and the reasons for exclusion will be clearly stated. This information will be used to review and improve behaviour management strategies.

Reintegration: Following a suspension, a reintegration meeting will be arranged with the pupil and their parents/carers to support their return to school.

Governor Board Panel Meeting: The Statutory Guidance includes provision for Governors to meet to consider reinstatement.

The Learning Partnership scheme of delegation permits the composition of this panel to be drawn from individuals serving as a governor in any school within the Trust.

When necessary it could include a Trustee. The Panel will follow the procedures and statutory time frame outlined in the version of DfE statutory guidance in place at the time the exclusion/ suspension was enacted.

7 Commitment to Equality

The Learning Partnership Academies Trust is committed to equality and inclusion. We ensure that our suspension and exclusion practices do not discriminate against any pupil based on their sex, race, disability, religion, or belief.

8 Monitoring and Review

This policy statement will be reviewed periodically by the Trust's Education, Standards and Performance Committee at least every four years, or following any material change arising from periodic updates to the statutory guidance issued by the DfE.

9 Further information

Please refer to the DfE guidance on school suspensions and exclusions and the school's behaviour policy.

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