

Internal Isolation

Some students during their time at Garstang Community Academy will be in need of additional support. The varying needs include the following;

- 1) Withdrawal from identified (by teacher and/student) individual/few lessons that have been problematic for short term respite (for teacher and student) with eventual repair, rebuild and reintegration.
- 2) Withdrawal from individual/few lessons for longer term, usually following short term, but where repair, rebuild and re-integration have failed. Total long term withdrawal may be a very occasional strategy.
- 3) Isolation from other students within the Academy as part of a consequence for misbehaviour. This will also include withdrawal of normal break and lunchtime privileges. This will include students who have been given a fixed term exclusion from school, containment for full day as either a consequence for truanting or positive prevention of further truanting.

The emphasis for all the above situations needs to be on 'refocus and redirection'. The aim will be to create a busy purposeful unit where real learning and the acquiring of good working habits is taking place.

Other possible support needs may include the following:

- 1) withdrawal from all lessons in the short term for students experiencing temporary issues
- 2) integration into school from other schools (managed moves) positive placements to support learning or coursework
- 3) to support other academies' behaviour management systems

Fixed term exclusion

Good discipline in schools is essential to ensure that all pupils can benefit from the opportunities provided by education. The Government supports headteachers in using exclusion as a sanction where it is warranted.'

(DfE 'Exclusion from maintained schools, Academies and pupil referral units in England 2012)

All decisions to exclude are serious and only taken as a last resort or where the breach of the Academy rules is serious or persistent. The following are examples;

- 1) Failure to comply with a reasonable request from a senior member of staff. Failure to wear Academy uniform which has been provided (where possible) for a student who is in incorrect uniform is regarded as failure to comply with a reasonable request.
- 2) Breaches of health and safety rules.
- 3) Verbal abuse of staff, other adults or students.
- 4) Possession of drugs and/or alcohol related offences.
- 5) Failure to comply with the requirements of the 'Consequence System'
- 6) Wilful damage to property.
- 7) Homophobic or racist bullying. Bullying.
- 8) Sexual misconduct.
- 9) Theft.
- 10) Making a false allegation against a member of staff.
- 11) Behaviour which calls into question the good name of the Academy Persistent defiance or disruption.
- 12) Minor assaults or fighting that is not premeditated or planned.
- 13) Other serious breaches of the Academy rules.

Permanent exclusion 'A decision to exclude a pupil permanently should only be taken:

- in response to serious 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 pupils or others in the school'.

(DfE 'Exclusion from maintained schools, Academies and pupil referral units in England 2012)

The Principal will make the judgement, in exceptional circumstances, where it is appropriate to permanently exclude a child for a first or 'one-off' offence. These offences might include:

- serious actual or threatened physical assault against another student or a member of staff;
- sexual abuse or assault; supplying an illegal drug;
- possession of an illegal drug with intent to supply;
- carrying an offensive weapon;
- making a malicious serious false allegation against a member of staff;
- potentially placing members of the public in significant danger or at risk of significant harm.

- These instances are not exhaustive, but indicate the severity of such offences and the fact that such behaviour can affect the discipline and well-being of the Academy community.
- In cases where a Principal has permanently excluded a student for :-
- one of the above offences;
- or
- Persistent disruption and defiance including bullying (which would include racist or homophobic bullying) or repeated possession and/or use of an illegal drug or drug paraphernalia on school premises.
- The Academy Council's Guidance on Offensive Weapons - the Academy has determined that, in addition to legislative guidance, any knife, irrespective of length, constitutes an offensive weapon and should not be brought into the Academy. In addition to knives; axes, BB guns, air guns, GATT guns, catapults, slings, etc., will also be deemed to be offensive weapons. Other types of offensive weapons will include:
- Lengths of pipe, bats, other blunt instruments, or items judged by the Principal or the Local Academy Council to be carried with the intention to inflict injury on another individual – this would include blades removed from pencil sharpeners, etc.

- In addition, the Academy Council also considers the following to be serious incidents may result in the permanent exclusion of a student:
- Deliberate activation of the fire alarm without good intent.
- Repeated or serious misuse of the Academy computers by hacking or other activities that compromise the integrity of the computer network.
- Repeated verbal abuse of staff.
- Persistent disruption and defiance that may or may not be directly linked to the Consequences system.