



Exclusion Policy

ESNE09

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King Edwin School

Exclusion Policy

Date of edit: 16th September 2025

Exclusion Policy (Updated 2025)

Rationale

King Edwin School is committed to the safety, well-being, and inclusion of all members of the school community. Exclusion (now termed suspension or permanent exclusion in statutory guidance) is used only as a last resort when a pupil's behaviour seriously breaches the school's Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy or where allowing them to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others.

Terminology

- Suspension: When a pupil is temporarily removed from school for a fixed number of school days (previously called "fixed-term exclusion"). A pupil may not be suspended for more than 45 school days in a single academic year.
- Permanent Exclusion: When a pupil is removed from the school roll, following statutory process.
- Supervised On-Site Provision: As an alternative to suspension, pupils may be placed in supervised learning away from their peers.

Decision-Making Authority

Only the Principal (Headteacher) may decide to suspend or permanently exclude a pupil. Decisions must be:

- lawful, rational, reasonable, fair, and proportionate;
- based on thorough investigation and consideration of all available evidence;
- compliant with safeguarding and equality duties.

Parental Notification

Parents/carers will be informed without delay, by telephone and in writing. The written notice will include:

- the reasons for the suspension or permanent exclusion;
- the length of a suspension and the return date;
- their right to make representations to the governing body;
- their right to request an Independent Review Panel (IRP) in the event of a permanent exclusion;
- contact details for the local authority and independent advice services.

Governing Body Oversight

The Principal must notify the governing body and local authority of:

- all permanent exclusions;
- all suspensions that result in a pupil missing more than 5 school days in a term;
- suspensions or exclusions that require a pupil to miss a public examination.

The governing body must consider reinstatement within 15 school days in specified cases and communicate decisions to all parties.

Independent Review Panel (IRP)

Parents may request an Independent Review Panel if the governing body upholds a permanent exclusion.

- The IRP must meet within 15 school days of the request.
- Parents may request the presence of a Special Educational Needs (SEN) expert, regardless of whether their child has an EHCP.
- The panel may uphold the exclusion, recommend reconsideration, or quash the decision and direct reconsideration.

SEND, Equality & Safeguarding Duties

- Exclusion must not discriminate on the basis of protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010).
- Pupils with EHCPs or identified SEN must not be excluded unless unavoidable. Alternative strategies should always be considered.
- Safeguarding considerations (as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025) must inform all decisions.

Alternatives to Exclusion

Where possible, alternatives such as restorative practice, behaviour support programmes, or managed moves should be explored before suspension or permanent exclusion.

Behaviour Outside School

The school may apply this policy to behaviour outside the school premises when pupils are:

- representing the school (e.g., on trips, at sports fixtures);
- travelling to and from school;
- engaging in conduct that could bring the school into disrepute.

Drug & Weapon-Related Incidents

Decisions regarding drug or weapon-related offences will take into account the school's policies on substance misuse and safeguarding, and advice from relevant agencies. Permanent exclusion may be considered for serious offences such as supplying illegal drugs or carrying an offensive weapon.

Monitoring & Review

The governing body will review the implementation of this policy annually. The policy will next be formally reviewed in September 2026.