



Exclusion Policy

School Division: Whole

Policy Division: Pastoral and Safeguarding

Policy Owner: School Principal

Date: September 2023

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Rationale
3. Examples of behaviours resulting in exclusion
4. Exclusion procedure
5. Permanent exclusion
6. Behaviour outside school
7. Appeals against exclusion

1. Introduction

This policy informs practice in the Prep School, Boarding Houses and Senior School.

The decision to exclude a student (permanent [expulsion] or fixed term) will be taken in the following circumstances:

- In response to a serious breach of the School's Rules and Regulations with regard to behaviour.
- If allowing a student to remain in School would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or others in the School.

2. Rationale

This policy is a key part of our rules and regulations regarding student behaviour and deals with the policy and practice which informs the School's use of exclusion. It is underpinned by a commitment to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the School community, and to maintain an appropriate educational and supportive environment in which all can learn and succeed and continue to get better, and that reflects the school's values of respect, for oneself, others, and the environment.

3. Examples of behaviours resulting in exclusion

Exclusion is an extreme sanction and is only administered by the Head (or, in the absence of the Head of Prep and Senior, the Deputy Heads or the School Principal. Exclusion, whether fixed term (suspension) or permanent (expulsion) may be used for any of the following, all of which constitute examples of unacceptable conduct, and are serious infringements of the School's Rules and Regulations on behaviour:

- The earlier stages of the Behaviour Policy sanctions have been used and the student's behaviour has not improved or continued rule breaking;

Claremont School Exclusion Policy

- In the reasonable judgement of the Headteacher, this is in the best interests of the student, their peers, staff or the school.
- The use or threatened use of physical violence against any person inside or outside the school, including verbal abuse, intimidation or threats against staff;
- The behaviour being addressed puts the student's or others' safety at risk;
- Breaches of examination regulations or any other forms of cheating;
- Vandalisation or arson of school property
- The student has been found to be in possession of drugs/alcohol or drug/alcohol paraphernalia, or attempted to supply the drugs/alcohol;
- The student has seriously breached UK law or School rules;
- Behaviour outside of school, harming safety and wellbeing of individuals
- Child on child abuse, harmful sexual behaviour.
- Radicalisation and extremism

This is not an exhaustive list and there may be other situations where the Head makes the judgement that exclusion is an appropriate sanction

4. Exclusion Procedure

Most exclusions are of a fixed term nature and are of short duration (usually between one and three days). The DfE regulations allow the Head to exclude a student for one or more fixed periods not exceeding 45 school days in any school year.

The Principal will promptly review all permanent exclusions from the School and all fixed term exclusions that would lead to a student being excluded for over 15 days in a school term or missing a public examination. Exclusion data is also shared with the Head of Safeguarding and Health and Safety of the International School's Partnership.

Before being excluded from the School, the student concerned would expect to see the Head, or Deputy Head accompanied by a pastoral leader, in order to have their voice heard.

Following exclusion, parents are contacted immediately. A letter will be sent by email from the Deputy Head or Head giving details of the exclusion and the date the exclusion ends.

If for some reason the parents/guardians are unable to take responsibility for an excluded student, he/she will be isolated from other students in a suitable location until either the parents/guardians are able to collect the student or the exclusion comes to an end. Under no circumstances would a student be sent home unaccompanied unless this had been agreed by the parents/guardians.

A readmission interview will be held following the expiry of the fixed term exclusion and this will involve a member of the Senior Leadership Team (usually the Head and/or a member of the Senior Leadership Team) together with the student's pastoral leader. Where it is deemed necessary a Pastoral Support Plan will be drawn up. This needs to be agreed with the school, student and parents.

Claremont School Exclusion Policy

If two student parties are involved in the exclusion decision, the school will ensure that restorative practices designed to restore relationships take place, to ensure that all students feel safe and comfortable at school.

During the course of a fixed term exclusion where the student is to be at home, parents are advised that the student is not allowed on the School premises and that daytime supervision is their responsibility, as parents/guardians. It is the School's responsibility to ensure through the Form Teacher/Tutor, that work is set for the student during their 'absence' from School. This will be done using Google Classroom. Boarding pupils may go to their allocated Guardian.

5. Permanent Exclusion

The decision to exclude a student permanently (expulsion) is a serious one. There are two main types of situations in which permanent exclusion may be considered.

The first is a 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.

The second is where there are exceptional circumstances and it is not appropriate to implement other strategies and where it could be appropriate to permanently exclude a student for a first or 'one off' offence.

The School will consider Police involvement for any of the above offences, as well as Children's services, to ensure the welfare of the students involved.

Exclusion will not be imposed instantly unless there is an immediate threat to the safety of others in the School or the student concerned.

The decision to exclude must be rational; reasonable; fair and proportionate. Before deciding whether to exclude a student either permanently or for a fixed period the Head will:

- Ensure appropriate investigations have been carried out.
- Consider all the evidence available to support the allegations,
- Take into account both mitigating and aggravating factors.
- Allow the student to give her/his version of events, with appropriate supporting adults in place

Examples of possible mitigating factors are:

- Provocation e.g. as a result of persistent bullying or racial abuse
- The student's general medical and emotional condition
- A student being new to the school (possible unawareness of the behaviour code)
- Coercion or being encouraged by others
- A relatively minor role in the incident compared to others
- An impulsive act or one committed in the heat of the moment
- A first offence
- Previous behaviour and character of the student suggesting that repetition is unlikely
- An apology for the behaviour
- Showing repentance and willingness to assume responsibility
- Voluntary cooperation with the investigation

Claremont School Exclusion Policy

- Admission of the offence(s)
- Readiness to make restitution towards the victim(s)

Examples of possible aggravating factors are:

- Failing to heed warnings about similar behaviour in the past
- Previous warnings about the risk of exclusion
- Premeditated offence(s)
- Use of a weapon
- A history of similar incidents
- Witness intimidation
- The victim(s) sustaining physical injury requiring medical attention
- The victim being particularly vulnerable e.g. a much younger or weaker student
- Ignoring significant previous support from the school to modify his/her behaviour
- Encouraging others to behave inappropriately in relation to the offence
- Showing no contrition or no willingness to accept responsibility
- Not cooperating with the investigation, or worse, actively seeking to frustrate it

There is no requirement to have hard evidence proof. The decision can be made on a balance of probabilities, meaning that the incident is more likely than not to have occurred.

Students will generally be externally suspended subject to a final decision to allow time for full consideration of the facts.

If the decision to permanently exclude is made the Headteacher (or Deputy) will aim to invite the student, and parent into school to communicate the decision. If necessary this may be required to be conducted online, or over the phone.

A formal letter will then be sent to the parent from the Headteacher detailing the reason for permanent exclusion including information on the right to appeal.

If a student is permanently excluded, the school will notify the local authority of intention to off-roll.

6. Behaviour Outside School

Students' behaviour outside School on school 'business' for example, school trips and journeys, away school sports fixtures or a work experience placement, is subject to the School's rules and regulations on student behaviour.

For behaviour outside School but not on school business this policy will still have effect if there is a clear link between that behaviour and maintaining good standards of behaviour in the School as a whole, or the safety and well being of members of the school community. This includes incidences of child on child abuse, and harmful sexual behaviour.

If the behaviour meets the School criteria for exclusion then the Headteacher may decide to exclude.

7. Appeals against Exclusion

If parents wish to appeal the decision to exclude, the matter will be referred to the Principal who will acknowledge the complaint and schedule a hearing to take place as soon as practicable and normally within five days.

Claremont School Exclusion Policy

Records relating to the decision to exclude and the parents' complaint will be copied to all parties not later than two days prior to the hearing. In no circumstances however will the school or its staff be required to divulge to parents, or others, any confidential information on the identities of pupils, or others, who have given information which has led to the exclusion or which the Head has acquired during an investigation.

The parents may be accompanied to the hearing by one other person. This may be a relative, teacher or friend. Legal representation will not normally be appropriate.

If possible the Principal will resolve the parents' complaint without the need for further investigation. Where further investigation is required, the Principal will decide how it should be carried out.

After due consideration of all the facts considered to be relevant, the Principal will reach a decision on whether to uphold or rescind the exclusion, or they may make other recommendations. This decision will be made within ten days of the hearing.

The Principal will write to the parents informing them of the decision and the reasons for it. The decision of the Principal will be final. The Principal's findings and any recommendations will be sent in writing to the parents and the Head.

This policy is made available to parents on request and via the school's website.