

# **Furze Platt Senior School**



## **Exclusion Policy**



# FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

## Exclusion Policy

To be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Furze Platt Senior School Governors Policy on Behaviour
- DCSF Guidance on Exclusions from Schools and PRUs

### Rationale

The decision to exclude a student from school for either a fixed term, or permanently is regarded as a last resort, and usually only after a range of strategies have been undertaken. Parents will be informed of such decisions at all times.

There are 4 circumstances in which a student can be required to leave the school site:

- There is sufficient evidence to suggest that a pupil has committed a disciplinary offence and allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the welfare or education of that pupil or others in the school.
- A pupil is accused of a serious criminal offence but the offence took place outside school. The Headteacher can decide that it is in the interests of the individual and/or the school as a whole for the pupil to be educated off site (although this is not an exclusion)
- For medical reasons, a pupil's presence on site represents a serious risk to the health and safety of other pupils or school staff (this is not an exclusion and may only be done for medical grounds)
- A pupil may be required to briefly leave the school site to remedy the school rules on uniform/appearance. This is not an exclusion but an authorised absence.

### Types of Exclusion

At Furze Platt Senior School, there is an escalating scale of exclusions:

- Students may temporarily be excluded from a lesson. In most cases, this will be after the school's Assertive Discipline procedure has been followed, and a pupil still refuses to co-operate. In this instance, the pupil can be removed from the lesson either by the Curriculum Leader, or the Senior Teacher on duty. Pupils will then be placed in a 6<sup>th</sup> form lesson.
- For more serious or repeated misdemeanours, a student may be placed in the Reflection Room for a period of up to two days. They will be supervised and provided with work, but will not be allowed into lessons. Additionally, their break and lunch will be at a different time to the rest of the school.
- Fixed term exclusions from school
- In the most serious cases, permanent exclusion from Furze Platt Senior School may be the only option left to the Headteacher.

### Fixed Term Exclusions

- A pupil can be excluded for an aggregated total of 45 school days in any one academic year

- Pupils can be excluded from the school site during lunchtimes, but the Headteacher has a duty to ensure that the parent/carer has been informed.
- During the first five days of a FTE, the pupil is the responsibility of the parent/carer, although the school must ensure that adequate work is set. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that the pupil does not come onto the school site, or is in a public place during school hours without reasonable justification.
- On the 6<sup>th</sup> Day of exclusion, the school must provide suitable full-time education, either on or off the school site. Furze Platt Senior School is part of the Maidenhead Federation, in which the Secondary Schools in Maidenhead provide reciprocal accommodation and a Teaching Assistant in order to meet the 6<sup>th</sup> Day provision.
- Following exclusions of 5 days or more, a reintegration interview must take place. For FTE of less than 5 days, this is not obligatory, although is good practice, and should take place if appropriate.

### **Permanent Exclusions**

- A permanent exclusion is a serious step, and should only be taken when all other alternatives have been explored. However, it is clear that for some pupils, in some circumstances, this is the only available and appropriate option. The DCSF lays out the following criteria for permanent exclusion:
  - Serious breach(es) of the school's behaviour policy; and
  - Allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.
- In most cases, a permanent exclusion will be the final step in a process of dealing with disciplinary offences following a wider range of strategies which have been tried without success. It is an acknowledgement by the school that it has exhausted all available strategies for dealing with the child and should normally be used as a last resort.
- There will however, be circumstances where a 'first offence' is so serious that permanent exclusion has to be considered. This could include:
  - Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or member of staff
  - Sexual abuse or assault
  - Supplying an illegal drug
  - Carrying an offensive weapon

This is not an exhaustive list. The school may then also wish to inform the police or other appropriate agency.

### **Rapid Response**

- Since September 2007, the Maidenhead Federation has piloted and implemented (now including Windsor) a scheme of Rapid Response, for students who are at risk of permanent exclusion.
- Slots are held on Monday afternoons, when a panel including Behaviour Support, Education Welfare, Education Psychologists, Youth and Community Services, Connexions, CAMHS (this is not an exhaustive list; nor will all agencies be able to attend) will consider each case, and look for an alternative to permanent exclusion, which could include a managed move to another school, and reduced/redesigned timetable, mediation, restorative justice or intensive support from a range of agencies.

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