

All Saints Catholic High School

Exclusion and Suspension Policy



Mission Statement

We are a Catholic community whose mission is to fully prepare our students for the wider world and to send them into it equipped for life and for the service of others. We come together from diverse backgrounds, united by Christ, by the highest aspirations and by a thirst for excellence to instil in our students a respect for themselves, for others and for their environment. We take our inspiration from Jesus' commandment to "love one another".

Approved by the Local Academy Committee: 24 January 2024



This policy is based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement.

Rationale

The decision to suspend a student will be taken in the following circumstances:

- In response to a serious breach of the School's Code of Conduct as described in the list below
- If allowing the student to remain in School would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or others in the School

Suspension is an extreme sanction and is only administered by The Head teacher or, in the absence of the Head teacher, the Deputy Head teacher.

Suspension or permanent exclusion may be used for any of the following, all of which constitute examples of unacceptable conduct, and are infringements of the School's Code of Conduct:

- Verbal or written abuse towards students or staff: this category also includes offensive language and/or threats of violence directed at students or a staff member via social networking sites or other forms of electronic communication
- The use of electronic technology to record, without the permission of a member of staff, images of buildings, students or staff of All Saints Catholic High School
- Uploading to the internet images or written content concerning All Saints Catholic High School without the permission of a member of the School's Leadership team
- Sustained acts of bullying, including 'cyber' bullying
- Use of prejudiced and discriminatory language
- Physical abuse to staff or students
- Indecent behaviour
- Vandalism or wilful damage to property
- Being in possession of illegal drugs; also to include alcohol
- Supplying illegal drugs to others
- Misuse of other substances
- Theft
- Violence against another student or a member of staff
- Threatening violence towards another student or member of staff
- Orchestrating violence between other students
- Sexual abuse or assault
- Carrying an offensive weapon.
- Arson
- Dangerous behaviour which may harm a student or member of staff
- Unacceptable behaviour which has previously been reported and for which School sanctions and other interventions have not been successful in modifying the student's behaviour
- Acting in a manner which brings the school's reputation into disrepute

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

There are two types of exclusion; suspension, with a usual duration of one to five days depending upon the severity of the student's action, or permanent.

The decision to exclude a student permanently is a serious one. There are two main types of situation 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 when there are exceptional circumstances and it is not appropriate to implement behaviour modification strategies: in such situations the decision may be made to permanently exclude a student for a first or 'one off' offence.

The School will consider police involvement for any of the above offences.

** Offensive weapons are defined in the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 as "any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person; or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him or some other person."*

As a school we aim to meet with all parents/carers and their child following a suspension for a re-integration meeting prior to their return to school.

Links to other policies and documents

- Behaviour Policy
- Online safety
- Department for Education guidance on suspension and permanent exclusion

Monitoring and evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy is reviewed through the systematic process of whole school review and evaluation

Review procedures

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Local Academy Committee.