

MORE HOUSE SCHOOL

POLICY

EXCLUSION

Rationale:

To form part of a comprehensive approach by the School to establishing and supporting a positive environment in which safety and good order are upheld, so that all members of the community enjoy the best possible conditions in which to work, to make academic and social progress, and in which they learn to respect others and are respected.

Purpose:

The temporary suspension of a pupil's access to the School site by means of a fixed-term exclusion will be used in exceptional circumstances only:

- as a neutral act designed to safeguard the pupil or others during a process of risk-assessment and mitigation planning; or
- in response to the pupil's serious deviation from the School rules and the recognised expected standards of social behaviour.

Such a deviation might be characterised by repetition of poor behaviour, which in a previous instance has been managed using a lesser disciplinary response, or might be characterised by a single action which has serious implications for the School and others in the community. The School's Behaviour for Learning, and Boarding Behaviour policies provide explicit details of when the provision of such major sanctions is invoked.

Broad Guidelines:

- Only the Headmaster may exclude a boy from the school, except in relation to the 'Individual Support' escalation process, as described in the School's Behaviour for Learning policy, whereby the fixed-term exclusion might be authorised or by one of the Headmaster's deputies. In his absence, in an emergency, one of his deputies, may exclude a boy. Parents who disagree with the Headmaster's decision are invited to raise their opinion with the Headmaster, and may pursue the Exclusion Appeals Process (detailed below), if deemed necessary.
- If there is considered to be an immediate threat to the safety or wellbeing of others or of the pupil concerned, the instant implementation of an exclusion may be instigated. Otherwise, the Headmaster will conduct appropriate investigations before deciding whether or not to exclude a pupil, allowing the pupil to submit his version of events, and considering the wider context, including appropriate School policies, to ensure that any relevant context is taken into account.
- Following a decision to exclude a pupil, it is expected that he will be supervised safely, apart from all other pupils. The parents or carers of the pupil will be contacted and asked to collect the pupil. The pupil will be supervised as appropriate to the circumstances until collection. This may not necessarily require direct in-sight supervision, for example where a boarder cannot be collected until the next day and there is no special concern regarding his immediate safety,

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behaviour or wellbeing. A letter will also be sent to the pupil's parents or guardians by electronic mail, setting out the background to, and details of the exclusion.

- The parents or carers of a boy who is excluded will be informed of this decision, giving full details of the circumstances. If a boy is the subject of an Education, Health and Care plan, the placing authority will be informed in writing of the exclusion.
- A record of the sanction will be made in the School's central record of major sanctions and in the School's records for that pupil.
- On his return to School, every effort will be made by the staff to support the boy and to help him to modify his behaviour so that he will not fail again. It is most usual that this support will extend from an initial meeting on the boy's return, between the boy, and a senior member of the School's staff, and will often involve one or both of the pupil's parents or guardians. The purpose of this meeting will be to make sure all parties understand the aspects of the boy's behaviour which resulted in a fixed-term exclusion, to review the effectiveness of the sanction, and to agree a plan for supporting the boy to avoid making a similar mistake in the future.
- Where a boy's behaviour has, in the opinion of the Headmaster, resulted in the break-down of his placement at the School, the Headmaster will permanently exclude the boy by means of expulsion from the School. Examples of such circumstance include, but are not limited to:
 - where a boy is found to have brought an illegal narcotic substance onto the premises, or to be in possession of such a substance – such circumstances will always result in the immediate permanent exclusion and expulsion of the pupil from the School, except where there are exceptional mitigating circumstances, determined by the Headmaster;
 - perpetrating sexual abuse or engaging in intimate physical or sexual behaviour with another pupil;
 - exhibiting physical or threatened violence towards a member of the school's staff, including volunteers and visiting professionals;
 - exhibiting a high level of physical violence towards any person;
 - the carrying, or bringing to School – including off-campus School activities such as trips – of an offensive weapon or illegal item;
 - perpetrating arson or significant deliberate vandalism, including significant graffiti;
 - repeated or persistent disruption to School's good order, or to the learning or wellbeing of others in the School, such that, in the judgement of the Headmaster, the impact on other pupils or staff is significantly detrimental;

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- where there is evidence of a pupil's engaging in illegal or excessively risky behaviour outside of School – such activity may make a pupil's continued placement at the School inappropriate, taking into consideration the potential risk to other pupils or to the School's good reputation. This might, for example, involve engagement with illegal narcotic substance-misuse, engagement with criminal activity, engagement with activity related to dangerous items such as bladed weapons, or involve especially abusive or otherwise illegal online activity.

Exclusion Appeals Process

In accordance with the The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, appeals against a decision to exclude a pupil, temporarily or permanently, are addressed through the following Exclusion Appeals Process.

Parents and carers may appeal to the Headmaster against any exclusion. If they are not satisfied with the outcome, they may appeal in writing to the Chair of the Board of Governors, at the School's postal address, marking the letter 'private and confidential'.

The Chair of the Board of Governors may decide to meet with the parents/carers to consider the appeal. Parents may be accompanied at the meeting by a companion, who should comprise only a single individual. Appellants are advised that legal representation is not appropriate and unlikely to be permitted. A written summary of the meeting will be made. Any decisions made at this stage will be final.

Conclusion:

Exclusion is used in exceptional circumstances only in response to extreme or persistent behaviour that has implications for the safety and wellbeing of others in the School community, or is detrimental to the School's good reputation in the local or wider community. The use of major sanctions is monitored and reviewed by the School's Board of Governors.

Responsible staff member	Headmaster
Ratified by the Governing Body:	13 th November 2024
Signed by the Governing Body:	Chair of Governors
To be reviewed (annually):	December 2025