

St John's C of E VA First School

Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy



‘Together we have roots to grow and the wings to fly.’

This policy should be taken as part of St. John's C. of E. First School's overall strategy and is implemented within the context of our vision of Government aims and our values as a Church of England School.

Review

Review Cycle	Date of Current Policy	Author(s) of Current Policy	Review Date
Yearly	October 2026	Nicole Simenton	October 2027

Ratification

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Chair of Governors	Jack Hill	JACK HILL	October 2027
Head of School	Nicole Simenton	NICOLE SIMENTON	October 2027
DSL	Nicole Simenton	NICOLE SIMENTON	October 2027

Details of Policy Updates

Date	Details

Context

St. John's First School is a dynamic learning community. In order to ensure that the school is a safe, supportive environment where pupils and staff can learn and thrive, there need to be clear procedures, structures, and expectations in place. School policies are a formal way of documenting the approach and values of the school and are designed to provide an instant picture of the principles of St. John's First School. They form an important framework that will ensure consistency in applying the agreed values and principles across the school.

The Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy is a policy required by the DfE.

Purpose

St. John's First School believes that good behaviour is central to a good education. Schools need to manage behaviour well so they can provide calm, safe and supportive environments which children and young people want to attend and where they can learn and thrive. Being taught how to behave well and appropriately within the context they're in is vital for all pupils to succeed personally.

Many schools successfully create environments in which behaviour is good and pupils can learn and feel safe. Where behaviour is poor, pupils can suffer from issues as diverse as lost learning time, child-on-child abuse, anxiety, bullying, violence, and distress. It can cause some children to stay away from school, missing vital learning time. Well-managed schools create cultures where pupils and staff flourish in safety and dignity.

In some cases, particularly when a pupil is persistently disruptive and support or sanctions are not deterring misbehaviour, further action may be needed. In serious instances, a pupil may need to be suspended or excluded. A pupil's behaviour outside of school can also be considered grounds for suspension or permanent exclusion.

The decision to suspend a pupil for a fixed period of time or to permanently exclude a pupil, will only be taken as a last resort from the Head of School/Executive Head and:

- In response to serious or persistent breaches of the school's Behaviour Policy
- If allowing the pupil to remain in the school would seriously harm the education or welfare of another pupil or pupils in the school.

Before reaching a decision to suspend or permanently exclude, the Head of School will consider all relevant facts and such evidence as may be available to support the allegations made, taking into account the school's Behaviour Policy and Equality information. St. John's First School expects that the voice of the child will be heard during this process and the Head of School is expected to take account of any contributing factors that are identified after an incident.

The Head of School will be expected to consider the impact of exclusion on vulnerable groups of pupils and consider what external support has been sought and this could include any additional provision that could prevent exclusion and any outside agency involvement.

The Head of School must ensure that the decision to exclude is:

- Lawful
- Rational
- Reasonable
- Fair, and
- Proportionate

St. John's First School will not condone schools using 'informal' or 'unofficial' suspensions where pupils are sent home, even with the agreement of their parents/carers, for a 'cooling off' period. Any suspension of a pupil must follow the formal process in order to be lawful.

St. John's First School sees the use of suspensions and exclusions as a last resort. The Head of School will always consider alternative options before deciding to suspend or exclude.

Scope

This policy relates to the suspensions and permanent exclusions of pupils at St. John's First School.

School Alignment

This policy is linked to St. John's First School's commitment to high-quality and inclusive education that ensures excellent outcomes for all children.

Other Related Policies

This policy reflects the following policy areas and guidance

- A guide for parents on school exclusion and behaviour (DfE 2023)
- School Equalities information
- Suspension and Permanent Exclusion guidance (DfE 2024)
- Behaviour in schools (DfE 2024)
- Education Act 2011
- School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012
- Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils Regulations (2007 & 2014)

Monitoring

This policy is owned by St. John's First School and will be subject to annual review and approval by the school's governing body. As part of this annual review, the school will consider the impact of the policy over the previous twelve months.