

School Exclusion

Exclusion from school is a very serious step and not one to be taken lightly. The decision to exclude a pupil must be lawful, reasonable and fair. Schools have a statutory duty not to discriminate against pupils on the basis of protected characteristics, such as disability or race. Schools should give particular consideration to the fair treatment of pupils from groups who are vulnerable to exclusion.

Only the head teacher or academy principal has the power to exclude a pupil.

Permanent exclusion should only be used as a last resort, and on disciplinary grounds in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy (breaking school rules); **and** where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.

Pupils cannot be excluded for more than 45 days each school year.

Disruptive behaviour can be an indication of unmet needs. Where a school has concerns about a pupil's behaviour, it should try to identify whether there are any causal factors and intervene early in order to reduce the need for a subsequent exclusion. In this situation, schools should consider whether a multi-agency assessment that goes beyond the pupil's educational needs is required.

Before deciding to exclude, a pupil should have opportunity give their views about what has happened.