

MANAGED MOVE GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

There are circumstances in which it is appropriate to arrange a transfer of a pupil to another school, for example to reduce the risk of permanent exclusion. The LA has produced this guidance for parents to support best practice in understanding the process for a managed move to a new school for your child.

Managed Moves can be used as a strategy to pre-empt an incident/s which gives rise to permanent exclusion. The result is that no exclusion is formally logged on your child's record.

Managed Moves should focus on the benefits for your child in having an opportunity for a 'fresh start' within a supportive framework, and in the building of a sense of belonging in the new school to minimise the chance of difficulties re-occurring in the new setting.

What is a Managed Move?

A Managed Move is a voluntary agreement between two schools, parents and carers and the child usually over a six-week period, to another school. This is initially on a dual registration basis with the outcome of moving to the new school register if the move has been successful after the trial period.

The move requires the agreement of parents or carers, the head teacher of your child's current school (the home school) and the head teacher of the receiving school. The current government statutory guidance (Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England - Statutory guidance for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion 2017) states:

'A pupil at any type of school can also transfer to another school as part of a 'managed move' where this occurs with the consent of the parties involved, including the parents and the admission authority of the school. However, the threat of exclusion must never be used to influence parents to remove their pupil from the school.'

How does a Managed Move work?

A Managed Move is never an early or first response when a pupil is failing at school because of their behaviour. Rather it should be considered as part of a measured response to support your child's emotional, social and behavioural needs between schools as partners in the support. It is likely to be a strategy considered after other supportive interventions used by school where there is little or no evidence of success.

It is recommended that any trial period lasts no longer than 6 weeks with an initial planning meeting and agreement with regular reviews and progress reports undertaken so everyone involved knows how well the child is doing and deal with any issues arising.

The school and family need to share the view that the receiving school is likely to be able to offer something sufficiently different to make the Managed Move the best course of action for the child. This may be due to, for example, the size or location of the school, a new peer group and/or teaching team or curriculum, depending on the issues at the current school.

Department of Children's Services

The current school will share information with the new school to support them in planning to support your child in their school. Parents and carers can ask for copies of reports and information shared.

A Managed Move would NOT normally be appropriate if:

- A parent is seeking a straightforward transfer to another school;
- The pupil is not on a school roll;
- The pupil would be unable to return to the home school if the placement is unsuccessful; and
- It would not ultimately be of benefit to the pupil

Managed moves should not be considered without discussion and agreement with the pupil's parents/carers. A formal written agreement signed by the child and parents/carers should be obtained. Such agreements should include a clear statement of commitment by the child, and parents or carers to support the receiving school's behaviour policy, as well as detailing the support that will be made available.

The views of the pupil to voluntarily undertake a transfer to another school should be considered if the managed move is to be successful. While it is expected that that child should attend the Managed Move meetings and be encouraged to express views freely and honestly, it may be difficult for them to do this. An adult who has a good rapport with the child should find out what he/she thinks about the current situation. It may be useful to have the parent or another adult who is close to the pupil to help them and consider if a written statement would support.

All necessary agreements should be recorded.

What is the local authority's role?

The Exclusion Officers within the Exclusions Team are able to advise schools, support parent/carers and act as advocates for the pupil if required. You can contact the team by emailing exclusionsteam@bradford.gov.uk

How will I know if my child moves onto the new school roll?

Agreeing the formal arrangements for a managed move transfer is the joint responsibility of the Head teachers of both schools involved.

A trial period of six school weeks, with dual registration, will have been agreed with start and end dates detailed, targets for the pupil and review points set. At the end of the trial period a review meeting would detail if the move has been successful and your child will move onto the new school roll and the previous school will withdraw from the managed move plan.

If at this end review, or within the trial period, the new managed move school, withdraws their agreement of potential placement as your child has behaved in a way contrary to the school behaviour policy, and it cannot be supported by other sanctions, the school will communicate this with you and your child's previous school.

In this situation, the pupil re-commences their education with their previous school as the managed move is deemed to be unsuccessful and they will plan next steps to support with parents and carers.