

## School Suspension and Permanent Exclusion

For the vast majority of pupils, suspensions and permanent exclusions from school may not be necessary, as behaviour can be managed in other ways. Suspension or Exclusion from school is a very serious step and should only be necessary when strategies, practices and interventions set out within the [Behaviour in Schools Guidance 2022](#) have not been successful in improving a pupil's behaviour or the use of more significant interventions or sanctions are required. 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 acting) or academy principal (or acting) has the power to suspend or permanently exclude a pupil.

Permanent exclusion should only be taken 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 suspended 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 suspend or exclude, a pupil should have opportunity give their views about what has happened and inform the pupil about how their views have been considered in decision making. Where relevant, the pupil should be given support to express their view using support such as parental support or advocates or if the pupil has one a social worker.