

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Exclusion Policy

Love Jesus



Love Learning

Love Life

As a Catholic School it is our mission to provide a safe, nurturing and happy environment in which to educate our children to share their witness through Christian values; to instil a love of learning, of self and of others; enabling all to develop their God given gifts and to achieve their potential.

Our aims are:

To provide a stimulating, holistic curriculum which enables and enriches learning, making education exciting and enjoyable. **Make learning fun**

To promote a lifestyle which emphasises the importance of caring for physical and emotional well-being. **Keep us healthy and happy**

To be a worshipping community which enriches the spiritual life of the individual, developing a sense of awe at the wonder of God's creation and his unconditional love. **Praise God**

For each member of the community to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ allowing them to make informed moral decisions based on Gospel values. **Make choices that Jesus would**

To be an inspirational school where expectations challenge, and encourage each child to achieve the highest standards they can. **Push us to do our best**

To support parents in their role as the first educators of their children. **Help the people who look after us at home**

To be known to parents and children as a welcoming and safe place. **Make us feel comfortable and safe**

To ensure that the life and curriculum of the school celebrates and respects the differing ethnic, social, spiritual and cultural backgrounds present in the school and society. **Celebrate our differences**

To develop self esteem through making a positive contribution to family life and the lives of the school, parish, local and wider global community. **Feel good about helping others**

To expect high standards of behaviour, courtesy and respect engendering a spirit of co-operation, kindness and compassion within the school community. **Treat each other well**

Through this Mission Statement we aim to create an atmosphere where exclusion is only used as a last resort. This policy should be read in conjunction with our Good Behaviour Policy.

Exclusion Policy 2017

It is the policy of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School to try to deal with all behavioural issues in an active, positive way, employing a wide range of strategies, including those specifically designed to avoid such issues reaching the point of exclusion. (See Good Behaviour Policy).

Purpose of this policy

This policy is designed to briefly outline the school's approach to exclusions within the statutory framework as detailed in 'Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England'. It outlines only where the school applies its own additional guidance and policies, which complement and reinforce the statutory guidance, for purposes of clarity in the day-to-day operation of the school.

Principles

1) Exclusion is a sanction used by the school only in cases deemed as serious breaches of the school Good Behaviour Policy. A student may be at risk of exclusion from school for:

- Verbal or physical assault of a student or adult;
- Persistent and repetitive disruption of lessons and other students' learning;
- Extreme misbehaviour which is deemed outside the remit of the normal range of sanctions.

2) A Fixed Term Exclusion from the school can only be authorised by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher acting on their behalf. If none are available to authorise the exclusion a decision should be deferred until the opportunity for authorisation is available.

3) In the case of a Permanent Exclusion this can only be authorised by the Headteacher and must only be done after consulting the Chair of Governors of the intention to impose this sanction, although the final decision rests with the Headteacher of the school.

4) The school seeks to reduce the number of incidents leading to exclusions by promoting a positive atmosphere of mutual respect and discipline within the school.

5) The school regularly monitors the number of Fixed Term Exclusions to ensure that no group of students is unfairly disadvantaged through their use and that any underlying needs of individuals are being fully met.

6) 'Informal' or 'unofficial' exclusions, such as sending a pupil home 'to cool off', are unlawful, regardless of whether they occur with the agreement of parents or carers. Any exclusion of a pupil, even for short periods of time, must be formally recorded.

Exclusions will only be used in the most extreme of circumstances and will always be carried out according to the guidelines given in the DFE document

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/641418/20170831_Exclusion_St_at_guidance_Web_version.pdf

We are in agreement with Plymouth's Fair Access Protocol

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/FairAccessProtocolPrimary.pdf> which means that we will make every attempt to prevent the situation arising where exclusion is the only option left. This agreement means that we would give children in danger of exclusion from other schools a chance for a fresh start with us. In the same way we would hope any of our children, for whom permanent exclusion appears to be the only option left, would be given the chance of a fresh start also.

Advice on exclusions can be sought from Plymouth City Council's Inclusion Officer, currently Isabelle Morgan tel 307471

Notification of an Exclusion

- 1) Parents will be notified as soon as possible of the decision to exclude a student and the reason for the exclusion. This will be done on the day of the exclusion being authorised by either direct phone contact or a face-to-face meeting. A written confirmation of the reason(s) for the exclusion will be sent to parents the same day.
- 2) In the case of a Permanent Exclusion parents will be notified by the Headteacher in a face-to-face meeting.
- 3) A student who has been excluded will have the reason for his/her exclusion explained to them by a member of staff so that they understand the nature of their misbehaviour.
- 4) The school will also work to put in place a programme for the pupil on his/her return. This will include input from staff at the school, parents, if appropriate, and any other appropriate bodies e.g. School Home Support Practitioner, Attendance Service or the Local Authority. Should it be decided for whatever reason that the matter needs to be put in the hands of another agency i.e. the incident leads to the discovery that there is a child protection issue, the school will continue to monitor the situation and work closely with that agency. It is hoped that in most cases following an exclusion, the child will be able to return to school and that further input will promote in him/her a more positive attitude and a subsequent improvement in behaviour.
- 5) The Chair of Governors, LA Inclusion Officer and relevant school staff will be notified of all Fixed Term Exclusions the same day of the production of the exclusion letter, which they will receive a copy of; it will clearly outline the reasons for the exclusion.

Students Returning from a Fixed Term Exclusion

All students returning from a Fixed Term Exclusion are required to attend a reintegration meeting, accompanied by a parent. This meeting will seek to establish practical ways in which further exclusion can be avoided and behaviour modified to acceptable standards in partnership between student, parent and school.

Permanent Exclusions

A school will usually only permanently exclude a child as a last resort, after trying to improve the child's behaviour through other means. However, there are exceptional circumstances in which a headteacher may decide to permanently exclude a pupil because of ongoing issues or even for a 'one-off' incident.

If your child has been permanently excluded, be aware that:

- the school's governing body is required to review the headteacher's decision and you may meet with them to explain your views on the exclusion
- if the governing body confirms the exclusion, you can appeal to an independent appeal panel organised by the local authority
- the school must explain in a letter how to lodge an appeal
- the local authority must provide full-time education from the sixth day of a permanent exclusion

Appeals

All correspondence regarding an exclusion from the school will inform parents of their right to appeal to the Governing Body against the decision to exclude. This procedure is clearly set out in the statutory guidance. The person who should be contacted to initiate an appeal is the Clerk to the Governors.

Relationship to other school policies

The Exclusion Policy should be read in tandem with the school's Good Behaviour Policy as well as other relevant school policies, particularly the Inclusion Policy, Special Educational Needs Policy and the Equality & Diversity Policy. It also has a close inter-relationship with the Anti-Bullying Policy and Attendance Policy.

Policy Agreed – September 2017

Review - September 2020