

Exclusions Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Behaviour Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Alcohol, Smoking and Drugs Policy, Relationships & Pupils Policy, Online Safety, Acceptable Use and IT Policy, School Rules, Complaints Procedure and Parent Contract. This policy is available on the School's website and also on request from the School office.

Tring Park School encourages pupils to adopt the highest standards of behaviour, principles, and moral standards along with the establishment of positive staff / pupil relationships and support for the School's values. This is supported by a system of rewards and sanctions which are designed to promote a calm and disciplined learning environment. Our system of rewards includes:

- Verbal praise;
- Communicating praise to parents via phone or written correspondence;
- certificates, prize ceremonies and assemblies;
- positions of responsibility, such as being entrusted with a particular decision or project.

More details can be found in the School's Behaviour Policy.

Sanctions for breaches of discipline that do not merit exclusion / required removal

It is hoped that pupils will respond to the School's positive encouragement and rewards and will comply with the School Rules at all times. However, the School acknowledges that, from time to time, pupils' conduct may fall below the standards of behaviour reasonably expected by the School.

The School has a range of disciplinary measures which include:

- Reminder of the expectations of behaviour and verbal reprimand from a member of staff;
- Referral as a corrective reminder of behavioural expectations and school rules;
- Additional schoolwork or repeating unsatisfactory work until it meets the required standard;
- The setting of written tasks, such as an account of their behaviour;
- Mediation meeting or Detention;
- Withdrawal of privileges;
- Letter to parents to advise of the misbehaviour;
- School based community service, under the supervision of a member of staff;
- Regular reporting, including academic performance reporting, early morning reporting, scheduled uniform and other behaviour checks, or being identified for behaviour monitoring;

- Withdrawal from a lesson, school trip or team event, under the supervision of the Head of Year;
- Suspension for a specified period.

Further details can be found in the School's Behaviour Policy.

Breaches of discipline outside of the School grounds:

The School takes the conduct of its pupils outside of school grounds extremely seriously. A pupil's misbehaviour outside of School can be damaging to the reputation of both the pupil and the School. Where an incident is reported to the School of a pupil/s' poor behaviour outside of the School grounds and the incident has not been witnessed by School staff, the School will take an evidence-based approach and/or talk to witnesses before identifying further action and any sanctions required for such behaviour.

The School will usually report to the police any activity which it believes may amount to a criminal activity which takes place either within the school grounds or outside of its grounds. Suspected drugs and weapons will be confiscated immediately and held for the police as potential evidence. If the School believes a pupil may have taken drugs then the School will seek immediate medical advice and may involve the police.

Other agencies, for example Children's Social Care, may also be notified where necessary and appropriate to the facts of the case.

Breaches of School Rules by pupils which merit exclusion (internal or external):

A non-exhaustive list of the sorts of behaviour that could merit permanent exclusion (including behaviour or conduct outside of School) includes the following:

- physical assault against pupils or adults;
- behaviour which puts the safety of the pupil, or any other person, in jeopardy;
- verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against pupils or adults;
- bullying, including cyber-bullying;
- committing a criminal offence;
- fighting;
- abuse on the grounds of race, religion, culture, sex, gender, sexual orientation, special educational needs, disability or learning difficulty;
- any form of unlawful discrimination;
- sexual harassment or misconduct, including non-consensual sharing of nudes or semi-nude images and/or videos;
- vaping, smoking, drug and alcohol misuse (including supply/possession/use);
- damage to property;
- vandalism, computer hacking or wilful damage to property;
- theft or unauthorised possession of any property belonging to the School, another pupil, or a member of staff;
- bringing illegal, inappropriate or dangerous items into the School, such as drugs, weapons, firearms, pornographic material etc;
- misconduct which adversely affects or is likely to adversely affect the welfare of a member or members of the School community;
- misconduct which brings or is likely to bring the School into disrepute;

- persistent disruptive behaviour or breaches of the School's Behaviour Policy or School Rules.

Circumstances which may merit required removal:

A non-exhaustive list of the sorts of circumstances that could merit required removal (including behaviour or conduct outside of School) includes the following:

- behaviour or conduct of a child, parent or parents that is unreasonable; and/or adversely affects (or is likely to adversely affect) the child's (or other children's) progress at the School, or the wellbeing of School staff; and/or brings (or is likely to bring) the School into disrepute; and/or is not in accordance with the obligations under the Parent Contract;
- attendance or progress of a child at the School that is unsatisfactory and, in the reasonable opinion of the Principal, the removal is in the School's best interests and/or those of the child or other children.

A non-exhaustive list of the sorts of behaviour that could merit required removal of a pupil on the grounds of unacceptable parental behaviour or conduct that is not in accordance with their obligations under the Parent Contract includes:

- treating the School or a member of staff unreasonably;
- making a malicious allegation about a member of staff or the School;
- communicating with the School in person or in writing (directly or indirectly), in a manner which is deemed voluminous, and/or relentless, and/or confrontational, and/or unreasonable, and/or overly aggressive;
- behaving in a manner which adversely affects (or in a manner which is likely to adversely affect) the welfare of a member or members of the School community;
- breaching the Parent Contract.

The School reserves the right to impose sanctions for parental behaviour falling short of required removal, including but not limited to placing restrictions on a parent's access to School / School events, communications with the School and/or the imposition of a warning (up to and including a final written warning).

Please note that exclusion / required removal may also be imposed by the School as a sanction for a series of more minor misdemeanours (whether that be pupil or parental related) and/or repeated short-term absence in the case of the pupil (as well as long term absence).

Procedure

Parents will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable in the event there is a complaint, concern or allegation that could result in the pupil being excluded or removed.

The Principal undertakes to make decisions in respect of exclusions or required removals fairly and, where appropriate, after due investigative action has taken place (such investigation to be carried out by the Principal or their nominee). Any findings of fact will be made on the basis of the balance of probabilities.

The School reserves the right to require the pupil to remain away from School as a neutral act during an investigation procedure. Alternatively, the pupil may be placed under a segregated regime if they remain on School premises.

Decision to exclude / require removal

Prior to any decision being taken by the Principal to exclude or require the removal of the pupil, the Principal will meet with the pupil and their parents / guardians or (in circumstances involving the possibility of the pupil's required removal on the grounds of parental unreasonable behaviour) the parents.

If the Principal considers that further investigation is needed, the meeting may be adjourned, and the reason for the adjournment will be explained to the pupil / their parents. Following the conclusion of the meeting, the Principal will reach their decision in consultation with the Chair of Governors. The Principal will communicate their decision in writing within five working days from the meeting. Should the School feel that the pupil is likely to suffer abuse as a result of the decision, it will report as necessary to relevant safeguarding authorities.

Appeals against exclusion / required removal

The School will always offer the right of appeal to any pupil excluded or required to be removed from the School. Any appeal against exclusion will be dealt with under Stage 3 of the School's Complaints Procedure, and should be made in writing to the Principal within five working days of the pupil's exclusion / required removal. The outcome of the appeal process is final and there shall be no further right to appeal.

If a decision is taken by the parents to withdraw the pupil, the parents will waive any right to an appeal. For the purposes of this policy "working days" refers to weekdays (Monday to Friday) during term time, excluding bank holidays and half term.

Recording and monitoring

Where the School imposes exclusion, required removal or suspension as a sanction, the written report on the investigation will be placed on the pupil's file.

Details of the exclusion, required removal or suspension will be recorded on the School's Sanctions Record.