



SAINT MARGARET CLITHEROW CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Exclusion Policy

Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to create a safe and happy school with a Catholic ethos in the heart of the Brixham community. Pupils and staff will be encouraged to reach their full potential, in faith and learning, in a nurturing, stimulating and rewarding environment.

Aims

At St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School, we aim to avoid exclusions wherever possible and, as a result, they are extremely rare. They take place only for very serious incidents or when other strategies have been tried and have failed repeatedly over time.

Rationale

A whole school positive approach to behaviour management underpins our rewards and sanctions process. Strong foundations for good behaviour are created through first class quality teaching alongside consistent modelling of behaviour and social skills. Where poor behaviour persists, sanctions are used selectively.

The Head teacher and SENCo will identify pupils whose behaviours place them at risk of exclusion, and seek additional provision to meet their individual needs, which could include working in partnership with other agencies.

In most cases exclusion will be the last resort after a range of measures have been tried to improve the pupil's behaviour and after a range of strategies have been put in place to address the inappropriate behaviour which may lead to exclusion. These are outlined in more detail in our Behaviour Policy.

Graduated School Approach

Managing serious or persistent problems

- We accept that it is the behaviour that is the problem and not the child.
- The behaviour of children giving cause for concern will be assessed.
- Triggers or antecedents established.
- Individual programmes will be planned to help modify inappropriate behaviour
- The child may be referred to our pastoral care team for additional support either on a 1:1 or small group basis depending on the need.

- Parents will be invited to discuss their child's behaviour and an individual programme drawn up. They will be kept informed of progress.
- An Early Help referral will be made to establish a Team Around the Family (TAF) if it is felt that more support is needed in the home environment.
- Incidents of concern will be recorded on CPOMS (the school's electronic Child Protection record) and relevant members of staff informed.

Individual Behaviour Support Plans

Behaviour Support Plans will be used to help pupils at risk of exclusion in order to support them to make correct behaviour choices. They will:

- Identify objectives and address one target at a time;
- Include strategies for managing the environment, the class or group, or the activities which give rise to the inappropriate behaviours;
- Emphasise teaching the child alternative positive behaviours;
- Specify the behaviour that is unacceptable and the consequence should it occur e.g. timeout
- Include some form of self-assessment to encourage taking responsibility for the behaviour

Potential reasons to exclude

Fixed term and permanent exclusions are used when other strategies and sanctions have not been effective over time or when there has been a single clear and serious breach of discipline. A serious offence could by itself justify a pupil's exclusion. This may include an aspect of the following:

- Violence towards an adult or child
- Verbal abuse of an adult
- Racist verbal abuse
- Sustained bullying (see Anti-Bullying Policy)
- Frequent high level disruption to lessons
- Frequent high levels of non-compliance
- Frequent high levels of disrespect to all adults who work in school

Each individual situation will be investigated according to need. The Headteacher will gather evidence, seek the opinions and advice of colleagues. The views of the pupil/s will also be sought to gain the full picture before action is taken. If satisfied that, on the balance of probabilities, the pupil did

what he or she is alleged to have done; the Headteacher may exclude the pupil.

Types of exclusion

1. Fixed term exclusion

This is used when persistent inappropriate behaviour continues over time or if a one-off serious offence is committed and when an investigation has been carried out, the Headteacher is confident that fixed term exclusion is appropriate.

- Violence towards an adult or child (which is deliberate and causes serious injury)
- Verbal abuse to an adult
- Racist verbal abuse
- Sustained bullying (see Anti-Bullying Policy)

Parents of all pupils who are excluded on a fixed-term will be invited to a reintegration meeting, usually on the pupil's first morning back into school, so that an appropriate way forward can be agreed. A Behaviour Support Plan including pastoral support will then be put in place to support the pupil. This will be regularly reviewed until it is no longer felt to be necessary or further measures are needed.

2. Permanent Exclusion

Permanent Exclusion is very rare as it is a very serious matter and is never undertaken lightly. Only the Headteacher can permanently exclude a pupil or a named deputy if the Headteacher is out of school. The Headteacher may decide to permanently exclude a pupil only when s/he is sure that:

- the pupil has seriously breached/persistently breached the school's discipline policy.
- if the pupil remains in school, it would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.

Legal Requirements

There is a formal process for all exclusions and these have to be reported to the Local Authority. Parents are informed through a formal letter. In the rare event of permanent exclusion, the school will follow the procedures outlined in the Local Authority guidance.

Rights of Parents/Carers

Parents are able to seek advice from the Parent Partnership Service if they have concerns, and may also contact the school's governors following an exclusion if they wish to as outlined in the letter they receive.

Signed _____ Headteacher

Date _____

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Date _____

Approved at Governors meeting on _____

minute ref _____