



Stormont School

**EXCLUSION & APPEALS
PROCEDURE
OR
EXCLUSION STATEMENT**

Stormont School - Exclusion Statement

EXCLUSION STATEMENT

Examples of behaviour which may merit temporary suspension or permanent exclusion include:

- Persistent disruptive behaviour
- Bullying, including cyberbullying
- Physical assault/threatening behaviour against pupils or adults
- Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against pupils or adults
- Sexual harassment
- Racist abuse
- Sexual misconduct
- Theft
- Damage to property
- Drug abuse
- Alcohol abuse

It should be noted that this is intended as a guide and is not an exhaustive list.

Sanctions of temporary suspension or permanent exclusion may be applied whether the offence has occurred on school premises, within school grounds, on school trips and visits, within the vicinity of the school or away from school premises, whether or not in the course of school activity. They may be applied in the case of illegal activity, or in the case of activity which is considered likely to bring the school or members of the school community into disrepute.

Parents will always be informed by the Head when temporary suspension or permanent exclusion are being considered as a sanction. In the case of temporary suspension, our aim will be to keep any period of suspension as short as is compatible with the disciplinary offence concerned.

In the most extreme circumstances, the Head may feel it necessary to exclude a pupil permanently from the school. Although the student's best interests will always be taken into consideration, the interests of others in the school and the nature of the particular offence will carry considerable weight. Parents will always be invited to meet the Head when such a decision is being considered and before it is made.

Whenever permanent exclusion is adopted as a sanction, parents have a right to appeal against the Head's decision. Such appeals must be directed to the Board of Governors who will inform the parents of the procedure for hearing the appeal.

Appeals process – permanent exclusion

An appeal against permanent exclusion will take the form of a review. The review panel will consist of at least two governors who have no prior knowledge of the original investigation and hearing, and who have not been involved in the decision to exclude the pupil.

If it is requested by the pupil's parents, the appeal hearing should take place as soon as possible after the decision to exclude has been taken, and within five working days. It may be heard at a separate location from the school, or at the school.

The review panel should be provided with the evidence which the Head had when making the decision to exclude and a record of the process followed (notes of the hearings, for example).

The appeal process will allow the pupil and/or her parents to make representations.

The panel may also find it helpful for the Head to be present to explain the basis on which the decision was reached.

Definitions: **Temporary suspension:** the temporary removal of the child from school and all related school activities for a defined period of time to be decided by the Head.

Permanent exclusion: the permanent removal of the child from school and all related school activities.