

# One Degree Academy

## Exclusions Policy

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Author	ASA
Date Ratified by GB	
Person Responsible	

The Academy is committed to providing optimum learning opportunities for all its students and to supporting this provision through all difficulties experienced by students. Any exclusion in this context is a major decision and will be made within clear parameters.

### Aims:

- A minimum number of exclusions, whilst safeguarding the well-being of all and the education of other students.
- Understanding by all staff, students, parents and Governors of the Academy's commitment to its students and their learning potential.
- Understanding by all staff and Governors of the process and its seriousness.
- Agreed procedures available to parents and the Governing Body if necessary.

### Practice

The Academy recognises that certain students, because of unacceptable behaviour, often spend a disproportionate amount of time in discipline, counselling and correction. These students are worth persevering with and the Academy feels it can help these students if:

- we get full parental support
- we do not feel that the child is a persistent bully, i.e. other students and staff are not intimidated by that individual
- we do not feel that to continue to provide a place for that student significantly damages the learning of others and the well-being of all
- the student does not persist in disruptive behaviour contrary to the Academy's Behaviour Policy

The Academy will make full use of the commitment as outlined in the home-school agreement.

The Academy does not exclude a student unless it is absolutely necessary to do so and if there is felt to be no other viable alternative. This is in response to serious or continuous breaches of the school discipline policy; or if allowing the student to stay would harm the education or welfare of other students or staff. The permanent exclusion of students will be the final sanction at the end of a long series of procedures, which are fully outlined in our Behaviour for Learning Policy.

If it is felt that the normal disciplinary actions of the Academy are having little effect, then the student will move on to the Pastoral Support Programme. This will be specifically designed to counteract those misdemeanours causing the most problems. The Academy will offer counselling support to any student seen as at risk of exclusion and, if appropriate, get external agencies involved.

If there is no improvement, or there are persistent lapses in the student's behaviour, then parents will be called in again to meet the Vice Principal, where the Pastoral Support Plan will be re-iterated.

An official warning should also be given to the student at that stage, informing him or her that their place at the Academy is at risk.

If there is no measurable improvement, he/she will be referred to the Principal for a final warning.

All stages of the procedure are documented and parents are always informed of any action taken by the Academy. Continuous misbehaviour will bring the student to the point of exclusion. It should be noted that, in order to progress to this stage, the student must have seriously contravened Academy regulations, either by a one-off exceptional circumstance or by persistent defiant behaviour.

In such cases, the Principal may take the decision to fix-term exclude the student for a number of days. The Governors will be informed after five days. There is no indefinite exclusion. The decision to exclude permanently is taken by the Principal due consultation having taken place with the governing body.

Notwithstanding the procedures laid-out above;

1. There will be exceptional circumstances where, in the Principal's judgement, it is appropriate to permanently exclude a child for a first or 'one off' offence. Such offences might include:

- serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or member of staff
- sexual or racial abuse or assault
- supplying or using an illegal drug
- carrying an offensive weapon / replica weapon

2. While One Degree Academy works with other schools to minimise the number of permanent exclusions locally, there may be occasions when a sustainable and appropriate alternative cannot be found.

3. The school also reserves the right to permanently exclude a student where families fail to cooperate reasonably with such arrangements (for example preventative Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) placements, Managed Moves or alternative provision).

In cases of permanent exclusion, the student's parents have the right of appeal to the Governing Body. Such appeals should be made through the Clerk to the Governors. Where Governors do not direct reinstatement, parents have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel appointed by the Academy. The appeal panel's decision is final and binding on the Academy. A parent may seek a judicial review of the panel's decision.