



St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School

Suspensions and Exclusions Policy

1. Vision, Values and Ethos

At St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School, our vision is to **"Let your light shine"**.

Our approach to behaviour, discipline and exclusion reflects our Christian values of **love, trust, hope, thankfulness and respect**.

We believe that:

- Behaviour is learned and can be improved
- Children deserve support, restoration and dignity
- Consequences must be fair, proportionate and purposeful
- Exclusion is always a **last resort**

This policy must be read alongside the **Reward and Behaviour Policy**, which sets out our graduated response to behaviour and our commitment to positive behaviour management.

2. Relationship to the Behaviour Policy

Suspensions and exclusions sit at the highest level of response within our Behaviour Policy and are used only when:

- All appropriate support and sanctions have been applied
- Behaviour presents a serious risk to safety or wellbeing
- Allowing a child to remain in school would seriously harm others

They are not punitive, but protective and corrective.

3. Legal Framework

This policy follows:

- DfE: Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Guidance (Sept 2023)
- Education Act 2002
- Equality Act 2010
- SEND Code of Practice
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)

4. Preventative and Graduated Response

In line with our Behaviour Policy, we prioritise:

- Clear expectations and consistent routines
- Reflection and restorative conversations
- Parental communication at the earliest stage
- Pastoral support and SEN assessment where appropriate
- Adjustments and interventions for vulnerable pupils

Suspension or exclusion will never be a first response.

5. Suspensions (Fixed-Term)

When a Suspension May Be Considered

A suspension may be used for:

- Serious or repeated breaches of the Behaviour Policy
- Physical aggression or violence
- Serious verbal abuse or threatening behaviour
- Behaviour that places others at risk

Decision-Making

- Only the Headteacher may authorise a suspension
- Each case is considered individually
- Context, intent, age, SEND and previous support are taken into account

Length

- Suspensions will be as short as possible
- The legal maximum of 45 school days per academic year will not be exceeded

6. Permanent Exclusion

Permanent exclusion will only be considered:

- In exceptional circumstances
- Where behaviour represents a serious, ongoing risk
- Where extensive support has failed and no reasonable alternatives remain

This decision reflects our commitment to:

- Safeguarding
- Fairness
- Hope and dignity for all involved

7. Communication with Parents

Parents will be:

- Informed immediately of any suspension or exclusion
- Provided with written confirmation including:
 - Reason for decision
 - Length of suspension (if applicable)
 - Right to make representations
 - Arrangements for education during suspension

We will always seek to work in partnership with families.

8. Reintegration and Restoration

Following any suspension:

- A reintegration meeting will be held
- Behaviour expectations will be revisited
- Support strategies will be agreed
- The focus will be on learning, forgiveness and moving forward

This reflects our belief in hope, restoration and fresh starts.

9. SEND, Equality and Vulnerability

- We recognise our duties under the Equality Act 2010
- Particular care is taken with pupils who have SEND or additional needs
- Reasonable adjustments are made
- External advice is sought where appropriate

No child will be excluded because of unmet need.

10. Role of Governors

- Governors provide oversight and challenge
- They review suspensions and exclusions lawfully and fairly
- They ensure decisions reflect both statutory guidance and school values

11. Monitoring and Review

- Data on suspensions and exclusions is reviewed regularly by SLT
- Patterns relating to vulnerable groups are monitored
- This policy is reviewed annually alongside the Behaviour Policy

Closing Statement

At St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School, discipline is rooted in love, respect and hope.

We believe every child can learn from mistakes, repair relationships and let their light shine.

***Reviewed:** September 2026*

***Next review:** September 2027*