



The Northumberland Church of England Academy

Exclusion Policy

The Northumberland Church of England Academy recognises that in order to ensure a positive atmosphere based on a sense of community and shared values it may, on occasions, be necessary to exclude an individual or individuals either for a fixed period, not exceeding forty five days in any one academic year, or, in some circumstances, permanently.

Such exclusions will only be resorted to when the academy can demonstrate with adequate evidence that all reasonable steps have been taken (including education off site) and/ or that the presence of the learner is likely to be severely detrimental to his/herself, other learners or staff. There may also be occasions when a short-term exclusion is appropriate because of unacceptable behaviour.

Purposes

1. To maintain an environment where learners can develop academically, morally and socially.
2. To maintain the highest standards of behaviour.
3. To meet statutory requirements, in particular to conform with the 1996 Education Act and DCSF 2007 Guidance on Exclusion from Schools.

Guidelines

1. Learners demonstrating anti-social behaviour should move through the hierarchy of sanctions outlined in the policy on Learner Behaviour and Discipline. However, exclusion will always be considered in the case of learners involved in violent behaviour.
2. Only the Executive Director or in his absence his nominated deputy - may exclude.
3. Learners and their parents will be given an opportunity to express their view and give their account of an incident, before a decision is made about exclusion.
4. All exclusions will be formally notified in writing to the parents, with a note to the Chair of Governors indicating brief details of the offence, the period of exclusion, the right of parents to appeal, details of work set, and the date for re-admission. The LA and Chair of Governors will be informed of a permanent exclusion within one academy day.
5. Parents will be invited into academy to discuss with the relevant member of staff the criteria by which a learner may be readmitted, where possible on the first day the learner returns to academy. In more severe cases, a Governor may also be asked to attend.
6. In all cases parents will be informed of their right to make representations to the Governing Body (via the Clerk) and be given details of any subsequent right of appeal.
7. Support will be provided for excluded learners during exclusion (e.g. by the provision of work and homework) and at re-entry to the academy. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to return work to academy to be marked. For learners with special educational needs, this should be matched appropriately to their statement.
8. In cases of exclusions that are over 5 days or permanent or result in a learner missing a public examination, the Discipline Committee of the Governing Body will meet within 14 academy days. Such hearings will follow the procedures recommended in the LA and DCFS Guidelines on Learner Exclusions.
9. Where a learner is given a fixed period of exclusion of a duration of 6 days or longer, the academy will arrange suitable full time educational provision from and including the 6th day of the exclusion.

10. During the initial period of up to 5 academy days, the parents/carers of the excluded learner must ensure that he/she is not present in a public place during normal academy hours without reasonable justification. This requirement applies whether or not the learner is in the company of the parent(s).
11. The punishment of permanent exclusion is likely be applied to the possession or supply of illegal drugs on academy premises or if a learner comes to the academy under the influence of illegal drugs or if a learner is in possession of a weapon.

Conclusion

The above policy should be read in conjunction with the academy's policies on Learner Behaviour and Discipline, Anti-Bullying and on Drugs, and with the LA's Guidelines on Learner Exclusions.