



# SUSPENSION AND PERMANENT EXCLUSION POLICY

**OHC&AT Trustees have agreed this Policy – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

Jay Mercer  
Chair of OHCAT Board

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Peter Lauener  
Chair of OHC Board

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# Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy

## 1. AIMS

Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust (OHC&AT) is a family of providers, comprising Orchard Hill College (OHC) and Orchard Hill College Academy Trust (OHCAT), working together for mutual benefit. We believe that together we can offer the very best for our pupils and students and for their local communities.

We are committed to following all statutory exclusions procedures to ensure that every child receives an education in a safe and caring environment.

This policy deals with the policy and practice which details the use of suspension and exclusion within OHCAT Academies, and is intended to demonstrate the shared commitment of all members of the OHCAT community to:

- Ensure that the exclusions process is applied fairly and consistently.
- Help pupils/students, parents, staff and governors understand the exclusions process.
- Ensure that pupils/students in school are safe and happy.
- Prevent pupils/students from becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- Ensure all suspensions and permanent exclusions are carried out lawfully.
- Reduce the need to use suspension or exclusion as a sanction.

### A note on off-rolling

OHCAT is aware that off-rolling is unlawful. Ofsted defines off-rolling as:

*“The practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without a formal, permanent exclusion or by encouraging a parent to remove their child from the school roll, when the removal is primarily in the interests of the school rather than in the best interests of the pupil.”*

We will not suspend or exclude pupils/students unlawfully by directing them off site, or not allowing pupils/students to attend school:

- Without following the statutory procedure or formally recording the event, e.g. sending them home to 'cool off'.
- Because they have special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND) that the school feels unable to support.
- Due to poor academic performance.
- Because they haven't met a specific condition, such as attending a reintegration meeting.
- By exerting undue influence on a parent/carer to encourage them to remove their child from the school.

## 2. LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY GUIDANCE

This policy is based on statutory guidance from the Department for Education: [Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement](#).

It is based on the following legislation, which outlines schools' powers to exclude pupils:

- Section 51a of the Education Act 2002, as amended by the Education Act 2011
- The School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012
- In addition, the policy is based on:
- Part 7, chapter 2 of the [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#), which sets out parental responsibility for excluded pupils
- Section 579 of the [Education Act 1996](#), which defines 'school day'
- The [Education \(Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils\) \(England\) Regulations 2007](#), as amended by [The Education \(Provision of Full- Time Education for Excluded Pupils\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Children and Families Act 2014](#)

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

*Suspension* – when a pupil/student is removed from the school for a fixed period. This was previously referred to as a 'fixed-term exclusion'.

*Permanent exclusion* – when a pupil/student is removed from the school permanently and taken off the school roll. This is sometimes referred to as an 'exclusion'.

*Off-site direction* – when a pupil/student is required to attend another education setting temporarily, to improve their behaviour.

*Parent* – any person who has parental responsibility and any person who has care of the child.

*Managed move* – when a pupil/student is transferred to another school permanently. All parties, including parents and the admission authority for the new school, should consent before a managed move occurs.

## 4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### 4.1 The Principal

#### **Deciding whether to suspend or exclude**

Only the Principal, or acting Principal, can suspend or permanently exclude a pupil/student from school on disciplinary grounds. The decision can be made in respect of behaviour inside or outside of school. The Principal will only use permanent exclusion as a last resort.

A decision to suspend or exclude a pupil/student will be taken only:

- In response to serious or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, **and**
- If allowing the pupil/student to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others.

Before deciding whether to suspend or exclude a pupil/student, the Principal will:

- Consider all the relevant facts and evidence on the balance of probabilities, including whether the incident(s) leading to the exclusion were provoked.
- Allow the pupil/student to give their version of events.
- Consider whether the pupil/student has special educational needs (SEN).
- Consider whether the pupil/student is especially vulnerable (e.g. they have a social worker, or is a looked-after child (LAC)).
- Consider whether all alternative solutions have been explored, such as off-site direction or managed moves.

The Principal will consider the views of the pupil/student, in light of their age and understanding, before deciding to suspend or exclude, unless it would not be appropriate to do so.

Pupils/student who need support to express their views will be allowed to have their views expressed through an advocate, such as a parent or social worker.

The Principal will not reach their decision until they have heard from the pupil/student, and will inform the pupil/student of how their views were taken into account when making the decision.

### **Informing parents**

If a pupil/student is at risk of suspension or exclusion the Principal will inform the parents as early as possible, in order to work together to consider what factors may be affecting the pupil/student's behaviour, and what further support can be put in place to improve the behaviour.

If the Principal decides to suspend or exclude a pupil/student, the parents will be informed of the period of the suspension or exclusion and the reason(s) for it, without delay.

The parents will also be provided with the following information in writing, without delay:

- The reason(s) for the suspension or exclusion.
- The length of the suspension or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent.
- Information about parents' right to make representations about the suspension or permanent exclusion to the governing board and how the pupil may be involved in this.
- How any representations should be made.
- Where there is a legal requirement for the Local Governing Body (LGB) to hold a meeting to consider the reinstatement of a pupil/student, and that parents (or the pupil/student if they are 18 years old) have a right to attend the meeting, be represented at the meeting (at their own expense) and to bring a friend.
- That parents have the right to request that the meetings be held remotely, and how and to whom they should make this request.

The Principal will also notify parents without delay and by the end of the afternoon session on the first day their child is suspended or permanently excluded, that:

- For the first 5 school days of an exclusion (or until the start date of any alternative provision or the end of the suspension, where this is earlier), the parents are legally required to ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours without a good reason. This will include specifying on which days this duty applies.
- Parents may be given a fixed penalty notice or prosecuted if they fail to do this.

If alternative provision is being arranged, the following information will be included, if possible:

- The start date for any provision of full-time education that has been arranged.
- The start and finish times of any such provision, including the times for morning and afternoon sessions, where relevant.
- The address at which the provision will take place.
- Any information the pupil/student needs in order to identify the person they should report to on the first day.

If the Principal does not have the all the information about the alternative provision arrangements by the end of the afternoon session on the first day of the suspension or permanent exclusion, they can provide the information at a later date, without delay and no later than 48 hours before the provision is due to start.

The only exception to this is where alternative provision is to be provided before the sixth day of a suspension or permanent exclusion, in which case the school reserves the right to provide the information with less than 48 hours' notice, with parents' consent.

If the Principal cancels the suspension or permanent exclusion, they will notify the parents without delay, and provide a reason for the cancellation.

### **Informing the Local Governing Body and the Governance Manager**

The Principal will, without delay, notify OHCAT's Governance Manager (via: [clerk@ohcandat.org](mailto:clerk@ohcandat.org)) and the LGB of:

- Any permanent exclusion, including when a suspension is followed by a decision to permanently exclude a pupil/student.
- Any suspension or permanent exclusion which would result in the pupil/student being suspended or permanently excluded for a total of more than 5 school days (or more than 10 lunchtimes or part days) in a term.
- Any suspension or permanent exclusion which would result in the pupil/student missing a National Curriculum test or public exam.
- Any suspension or permanent exclusion that has been cancelled, including the reason for the cancellation.

### **Informing the Local Authority (LA)**

The Principal will notify the LA of all suspensions and permanent exclusions without delay, regardless of the length of a suspension.

The notification will include:

- The reason(s) for the suspension or permanent exclusion.
- The length of a suspension or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent.

For a permanent exclusion, if the pupil/student lives outside the LA in which the school is located, the Principal will also, without delay, inform the pupil/student's 'home authority' of the exclusion and the reason(s) for it.

The Principal must notify the LA without delay of any cancelled exclusions, including the reason the exclusion was cancelled.

### **Informing the pupil/student's social worker and/or virtual school head (VSH)**

If a:

- **Pupil/student with a social worker** is at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion, the Principal will inform **the social worker** as early as possible.
- **Pupil/student who is a looked-after child (LAC)** is at risk of suspension or exclusion, the Principal will inform **the VSH** as early as possible.

This is in order to work together to consider what factors may be affecting the pupil/student's behaviour, and what further support can be put in place to improve the behaviour.

If the Principal decides to suspend or permanently exclude a pupil/student with a social worker / a pupil/student who is looked after, they will inform the pupil/student's social worker / the VSH, as appropriate, without delay, that:

- They have decided to suspend or permanently exclude the pupil/student.
- The reason(s) for the decision.
- The length of the suspension or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent.
- The suspension or permanent exclusion affects the pupil/student's ability to sit a National Curriculum test or public exam (where relevant).
- They have decided to cancel a suspension or permanent exclusion, and why (where relevant).

The social worker / VSH will be invited to any meeting of the LGB about the suspension or permanent exclusion. This is so they can provide advice on how the pupil/student's background and/or circumstances may have influenced the circumstances of their suspension or permanent exclusion. The social worker should also help ensure safeguarding needs and risks and the pupil/student's welfare are taken into account.

### **Cancelling suspensions and permanent exclusions**

The Principal may cancel a suspension or permanent exclusion that has already begun, but this will only be done where it has not yet been reviewed by the governing board. Where there is a cancellation:

- The parents, the OHC&AT Governance Manager, the LGB and LA will be notified without delay.
- Where relevant, any social worker and VSH will be notified without delay.
- The notification must provide the reason for the cancellation.
- The governing board's duty to hold a meeting and consider reinstatement

ceases.

- Parents will be offered the opportunity to meet with the Principal to discuss the cancellation, which will be arranged without delay.
- The pupil/student will be allowed back in school without delay.

Any days spent out of school as a result of any exclusion, prior to the cancellation, will count towards the maximum of 45 school days permitted in any school year.

A permanent exclusion cannot be cancelled if the pupil/student has already been excluded for more than 45 school days in a school year or if they will have been so by the time the cancellation takes effect.

### **Providing education during the first 5 days of a suspension or permanent exclusion**

During the first 5 days of a suspension, if the pupil/student is not attending alternative (AP) provision, the Principal will take steps to ensure that achievable and accessible work is set and marked for the pupil/student. Online pathways such as Google Classroom or Oak Academy may be used for this. As a specialist Trust, all of our schools work with pupils/students with SEND and the Principal will therefore make sure that all necessary reasonable adjustments are made to the educational provision for a pupil/student who has been suspended or excluded.

If the pupil/student is looked after or if they have a social worker, the school will work with the LA to arrange AP from the first day following the suspension or permanent exclusion. Where this isn't possible, the school will take reasonable steps to set and mark work for the pupil/student, including the use of online pathways.

## **4.2 The Local Governing Body**

### **Considering suspensions and permanent exclusions**

Responsibilities regarding exclusions are delegated to the Suspension and Exclusion Panel, consisting of three Governors or Trustees of the Academy Trust.

The Suspension and Exclusion Panel has a duty to consider parents' representations about a suspension or permanent exclusion. It has a duty to consider the reinstatement of a suspended or permanently excluded pupil/student (see sections 5 and 6) in certain circumstances.

Within 14 days of receiving a request, the Board of Trustees will provide the secretary of state with information about any suspensions or exclusions within the last 12 months.

For any suspension of more than 5 school days, the LGB will arrange suitable full-time education for the pupil/student. This provision will begin no later than the sixth day of the suspension.

The LGB does not have to arrange such provision for pupil/student in their final year of compulsory education who do not have any further public exams to sit.

## **Monitoring and analysing suspensions and exclusions data**

The LGB will challenge and evaluate the data on the school's use of suspension, exclusion, off-site direction to alternative provision and managed moves.

The LGB will consider:

- How effectively and consistently the school's Behaviour Policy is being implemented.
- The school register and absence codes.
- Instances where pupils/students receive repeat suspensions.
- Interventions in place to support pupils/students at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion.
- Any variations in the rolling average of permanent exclusions, to understand why this is happening, and to make sure they are only used when necessary.
- Timing of moves and permanent exclusions, and whether there are any patterns, including any indications which may highlight where policies or support are not working.
- The characteristics of suspended and permanently excluded pupils/students, and why this is taking place.
- Whether the placements of pupils/students directed off-site into alternative provision are reviewed at sufficient intervals to assure that the education is achieving its objectives and that pupils/students are benefiting from it.
- The cost implications of directing pupils/students off-site.

### **4.3 The Local Authority (LA)**

For permanent exclusions, the LA will arrange suitable full-time education to begin no later than the sixth school day after the first day of the exclusion.

For pupils/students who are LAC or have social workers, the LA and the school will work together to arrange suitable full-time education to begin from the first day of the exclusion.

## **5. CONSIDERING THE REINSTATEMENT OF A PUPIL/STUDENT**

The Suspension and Exclusion Panel will consider and decide on the reinstatement of a suspended or permanently excluded pupil/student within 15 school days of receiving the notice of the suspension or exclusion if:

- The exclusion is permanent;
- It is a suspension which would bring the pupil/student's total number of days out of school to more than 15 in a term; or
- It would result in a pupil/student missing a public exam or National Curriculum test.

Where the pupil/student has been suspended, and the suspension does not bring the pupil/student's total number of days of suspension to more than 15 in a term, the Suspension and Exclusion Panel must consider any representations made by parents. However, it is not required to arrange a meeting with parents and it cannot direct the Principal to reinstate the pupil/student.

Where the pupil/student has been suspended for more than 5 days, but fewer than 15



days, in a single term, and the parents make representations to the board, the Suspension and Exclusion Panel will consider and decide on the reinstatement of a suspended pupil/student within 50 school days of receiving notice of the suspension. If the parents do not make representations, the Panel is not required to meet and it cannot direct the Principal to reinstate the pupil/student.

Where a suspension or permanent exclusion would result in a pupil/student missing a public exam or National Curriculum test, the Suspension and Exclusion Panel will, as far as reasonably practicable, consider and decide on the reinstatement of the pupil/student before the date of the exam or test. If this is not practicable, the Suspension and Exclusion Panel may consider the suspension or permanent exclusion and decide whether or not to reinstate the pupil/student.

The panel clerk will invite the following parties to a meeting of the Suspension and Exclusion Panel and they will be allowed to make representations or share information:

- Parents, or the pupil/student if they are 18 or over (and, where requested, a representative or friend).
- The pupil/student, if they are aged 17 or younger and it would be appropriate to their age and understanding (and, where requested, a representative or friend).
- The Principal.
- The pupil/student's social worker, if they have one.
- The VSH, if the pupil/student is looked after.

The Suspension and Exclusion Panel meetings can be held remotely at the request of parents. See section 9 for more details on remote access to meetings.

The panel clerk will try to arrange the meeting within the statutory time limits set out above and must try to have it at a time that suits all relevant parties. However, the panel's decision will not be invalid simply on the grounds that it was not made within these time limits.

The Suspension and Exclusion Panel can either:

- Decline to reinstate the pupil/student, or
- Direct the reinstatement of the pupil/student immediately, or on a particular date (except in cases where the Panel cannot do this – see earlier in this section).

In reaching a decision, the Suspension and Exclusion Panel will consider:

- Whether the decision to suspend or permanently exclude was lawful, reasonable, and procedurally fair.
- Whether the Principal followed their legal duties.
- The welfare and safeguarding of the pupil/student and their peers.
- Any evidence that was presented to the Panel.

They will decide whether or not a fact is true 'on the balance of probabilities'.

The clerk will be present when the decision is made.

The panel clerk will take minutes of the meeting and all evidence presented will be kept. The outcome will also be recorded on the pupil/student's educational record, and copies of relevant papers will be kept with this record.

The Suspension and Exclusion Panel, via the clerk, will notify the parents, or the pupil/student if they are 18 or older, in writing of its decision along with reasons for its decision, without delay. The following will be copied into the decision letter:

- The Principal.
- The OHC&AT Head of Governance.
- The pupil/student's social worker, if they have one.
- The VSH, if the pupil is looked after.
- The local authority.
- The pupil/student's home authority, if it differs from the school's.

Where an exclusion is permanent and the Suspension and Exclusion Panel has decided not to reinstate the pupil/student, the notification of decision will also include the following:

- The fact that it is a permanent exclusion.
- Notice of parents' right to ask for the decision to be reviewed by an independent review panel.
- The date by which an application for an independent review must be made (15 school days from the date on which notice in writing of the Panel's decision is given to parents).
- The name and address to which an application for a review and any written evidence should be submitted.
- That any application should set out the grounds on which it is being made and that, where appropriate, it should include reference to how the pupil/student's special educational needs (SEN) are considered to be relevant to the permanent exclusion.
- That, regardless of whether the excluded pupil/student has recognised SEN, parents have a right to require OHCAT to appoint an SEN expert to advise the review panel.
- Details of the role of the SEN expert and that there would be no cost to parents for this appointment.
- That parents must make clear if they wish for an SEN expert to be appointed in any application for a review.
- That parents may, at their own expense, appoint someone to make written and/or oral representations to the panel, and parents may also bring a friend to the review.
- That, if parents believe that the permanent exclusion has occurred as a result of unlawful discrimination, they may make a claim under the Equality Act 2010 to the first-tier tribunal (special educational needs and disability), in the case of disability discrimination, or the county court, in the case of other forms of discrimination. Also, that any claim of discrimination made under these routes should be lodged within 6 months of the date on which the discrimination is alleged to have taken place.

## **6. INDEPENDENT REVIEW**

If parents apply for an independent review within the legal timeframe, the OHC&AT Governance Manager will arrange for an independent panel to review the decision of the Suspension and Exclusion Panel not to reinstate a permanently excluded pupil/student.

Applications for an independent review must be made within 15 school days of notice being given to the parents by the Suspension and Exclusion Panel of its decision to not reinstate the pupil/student or, if after this time, within 15 school days of the final determination of a claim of discrimination under the Equality Act 2010 regarding the permanent exclusion. Any applications made outside of this timeframe will be rejected.

Independent reviews can be held remotely at the request of parents. See section 9 for more details on remote access to meetings.

An externally commissioned panel of 3 members will be constituted with representatives from each of the categories below. At all times during the review process there will be the required representation on the panel:

- A lay member to chair the panel who has not worked in any school in a paid capacity, disregarding any experience as a school governor or volunteer.
- Current or former school governors who have served as a governor for at least 12 consecutive months in the last 5 years, provided they have not been teachers or Principals during this time.
- Principals or individuals who have been a Principal within the last 5 years.

A person may not serve as a member of a review panel if they:

- Are a Trustee of OHCAT, a governor of the excluding school or a governor of a school in the Trust.
- Are the Principal of the excluding school, or have held this position in the last 5 years.
- Are an employee of OHCAT, or the governing board, of the excluding school.
- Have, or at any time have had, any connection with OHCAT, the excluding school, Board of Trustees, LGB, parents or pupil/student, or the incident leading to the exclusion, which might reasonably be taken to raise doubts about their impartiality.
- Have not had the required training within the last 2 years (see appendix 1 for what training must cover).

The panel must consider the interests and circumstances of the pupil/student, including the circumstances in which the pupil/student was permanently excluded, and have regard to the interests of other pupils/students and people working at the school.

Taking into account the pupil/student's age and understanding, the pupil/student or their parents will be made aware of their right to attend and participate in the review meeting and the pupil/student should be enabled to make representations on their own behalf, should they desire to.

Where a SEN expert is present, the panel must seek and have regard to the SEN expert's view of how SEN may be relevant to the pupil/student's permanent exclusion.

Where a social worker is present, the panel must have regard to any representation made by the social worker of how the pupil/student's experiences, needs, safeguarding risks and/or welfare may be relevant to the pupil/student's permanent exclusion.

Where a VSH is present, the panel must have regard to any representation made by the social worker of how any of the child's background, education and safeguarding needs were considered by the Principal in the lead up to the permanent exclusion, or are relevant to the pupil/student's permanent exclusion.

Following its review, the independent panel will decide to do one of the following:

- Uphold the decision of the Suspension and Exclusion Panel.
- Recommend that the Suspension and Exclusion Panel reconsiders reinstatement.
- Quash the Suspension and Exclusion Panel's decision and direct that they reconsider reinstatement (only if it judges that the decision was flawed).

New evidence may be presented, though the school cannot introduce new reasons for the permanent exclusion or the decision not to reinstate. The panel must disregard any new reasons that are introduced.

In deciding whether the decision was flawed, and therefore whether to quash the decision not to reinstate, the panel must only take account of the evidence that was available to the Suspension and Exclusion Panel at the time of making its decision. This includes any evidence that the panel considers would, or should, have been available to the Suspension and Exclusion Panel and that it ought to have considered if it had been acting reasonably.

If evidence is presented that the panel considers it is unreasonable to expect the Suspension and Exclusion Panel to have been aware of at the time of its decision, the panel can take account of the evidence when deciding whether to recommend that the governing board reconsider reinstatement.

The panel's decision can be decided by a majority vote. In the case of a tied decision, the chair has the casting vote.

Once the panel has reached its decision, the panel will notify all parties in writing without delay.

This notification will include:

- The panel's decision and the reasons for it.
- Where relevant, details of any financial readjustment or payment to be made if the Suspension and Exclusion Panel does not subsequently decide to offer to reinstate the pupil/student within 10 school days.
- Any information that the panel has directed the Suspension and Exclusion Panel to place on the pupil/student's educational record.

## **7. SCHOOL REGISTERS**

A pupil/student's name will be removed from the school admission register if:

- 15 school days have passed since the parents were notified of the Suspension and Exclusion Panel's decision to not reinstate the pupil/student and no application has been made for an independent review panel, or
- The parents have stated in writing that they will not be applying for an independent review panel

Where an application for an independent review has been made within 15 school days, the school will wait until that review has concluded before removing a pupil/student's name from the register.

While the pupil/student's name remains on the school's admission register, the pupil/student's attendance will still be recorded appropriately. Where alternative provision has been made for an excluded pupil/student and they attend it, code B (education off-site) or code D (dual registration) will be used on the attendance register.

Where excluded pupils/students are not attending alternative provision, code E (absent) will be used.

## **Making a return to the LA**

Where a pupil/student's name is to be removed from the school admissions register because of a permanent exclusion, the school will make a return to the LA. The return will include:

- The pupil/student's full name.
- The full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil/student normally resides.
- At least one telephone number at which any parent with whom the pupil/student normally resides can be contacted in an emergency.
- The grounds upon which their name is to be deleted from the admissions register (i.e., permanent exclusion).
- Details of the new school the pupil/student will attend, including the name of that school and the first date when the pupil/student attended or is due to attend there, if the parents have told the school the pupil/student is moving to another school.
- Details of the pupil/student's new address, including the new address, the name of the parent(s) the pupil/student is going to live there with, and the date when the pupil/student is going to start living there, if the parents have informed the school that the pupil/student is moving house.

This return must be made as soon as the grounds for removal is met and no later than the removal of the pupil/student's name.

## **8. RETURNING FROM A SUSPENSION**

### **8.1 Reintegration strategy**

Following suspension, the school will put in place a strategy to help the pupil/student reintegrate successfully into school life and full-time education.

Where necessary, the school will work with third-party organisations to identify whether the pupil/student has any unmet special educational and/or health needs.

The following measures may be implemented, as part of the strategy, to ensure a successful reintegration into school life for the pupil:

- Maintaining regular contact during the suspension or off-site direction and welcoming the pupil/student back to school.
- Daily contact in school with a designated pastoral professional.
- Mentoring by a trusted adult or a local mentoring charity.
- Regular reviews with the pupil/student and parents to praise progress being made and raise and address any concerns at an early stage.

- Informing the pupil/student, parents and staff of potential external support.

Reintegration meetings offer an opportunity to reset expectations and reaffirm the principles of positive behaviour support within the school. The school will work with the pupil/student to set specific goals in order to help them avoid the behaviour that led to exclusion. It is best practice to ensure that the pupil/student's conduct and behaviour are closely monitored for the immediate period following return from a fixed term exclusion.

If a pupil/student has served a suspension period of greater than five days or an accumulation of suspensions exceeding five days, a support plan will be drawn up. This will be agreed between the school, the pupil/student and parents/carers.

Part-time timetables will not be used as a tool to manage behaviour.

This strategy will be regularly reviewed and adapted where necessary throughout the reintegration process in collaboration with the pupil/student, parents, and other relevant parties.

## **8.2 Reintegration meetings**

The school will explain the reintegration strategy to the pupil/student in a reintegration meeting before or on the pupil/student's return to school. During the meeting the school will communicate to the pupil/student that they are getting a fresh start and that they are a valued member of the school community.

The pupil/student, parents, a member of senior staff, and any other relevant staff will be invited to attend the meeting.

The meeting can proceed without the parents in the event that they cannot or do not attend.

The school expects all returning pupil/student and their parents to attend their reintegration meeting, but pupil/student who do not attend will not be prevented from returning to the classroom.

## **9. REMOTE ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

Parents can request that the Suspension and Exclusion Panel meeting, or independent review panel be held remotely. If the parents do not express a preference, the meeting will be held in person.

In case of extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances, which mean it is not reasonably practicable for the meeting to be held in person, the meeting will be held remotely.

Remotely accessed meetings are subject to the same procedural requirements as in-person meetings.

The Suspension and Exclusion Panel and the Trust should make sure that the following conditions are met before agreeing to let a meeting proceed remotely:

- All the participants have access to the technology which will allow them to hear, speak, see and be seen

- All the participants will be able to participate fully
- The remote meeting can be held fairly and transparently

Social workers and the VSH always have the option of joining remotely, whether the meeting is being held in person or not, as long as they can meet the conditions for remote access listed above.

The meeting will be rearranged to an in-person meeting without delay if technical issues arise that cannot be reasonably resolved and:

- Compromise the ability of participants to contribute effectively, or
- Prevent the meeting from running fairly and transparently.

## 10. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The school will collect data on the following:

- Attendance, permanent exclusions and suspensions.
- Use of pupil referral units, off-site directions and managed moves.
- Anonymous surveys of pupils/students, staff, governors/trustees and other stakeholders on their perceptions and experiences.

The data will be analysed annually reported back to the Local Governing Body.

The data will be analysed from a variety of perspectives including:

- At school level
- By age group
- By time of day/week/term
- By protected characteristic

The school will use the results of this analysis to make sure it is meeting its duties under the Equality Act 2010. If any patterns or disparities between groups of pupils/students are identified by this analysis, the school will review its policies in order to tackle it.

OHCAT will work with our academies to consider this data, and to analyse whether there are patterns across the Trust, recognising that numbers in any one academy may be too low to allow for meaningful statistical analysis.

This policy will be reviewed not less than every two years, or as required in accordance with changes to statutory guidance.

## POLICY REVIEW INFORMATION

<i>Version:</i>	2.1
<i>Reviewer:</i>	Rachael Tucker, Caroline Davies, Laurie Cornwell
<i>Approval body:</i>	Quality, Standards & Safeguarding Committee
<i>Date this version approved:</i>	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
<i>Due for review:</i>	Autumn 2024

## **RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTATION**

Anti-Bullying Policy

Behaviour Policy

Child Protection, Adult Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Procedure

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy

Health & Safety Policy

Online Safety policy

SEND Policy and Information Report

Substance Misuse Policy



## **APPENDIX 1: Independent review panel training**

OHCAT will make sure that all members of an independent review panel and clerks have received training within the 2 years prior to the date of the review.

Training must have covered:

- The requirements of the primary legislation, regulations and statutory guidance governing suspensions and permanent exclusions on disciplinary grounds, which would include an understanding of how the principles applicable in an application for judicial review relate to the panel's decision making
- The need for the panel to observe procedural fairness and the rules of natural justice
- The role of the chair and the clerk of a review panel
- The duties of headteachers, governing boards and the panel under the Equality Act 2010
- The effect of section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (acts of public authorities unlawful if not compatible with certain human rights) and the need to act in a manner compatible with human rights protected by that Act