

# Stone Lodge Therapeutic School

## Exclusion and Suspension Policy



**Stone Lodge School**

<b>Reviewed Date:</b> March 2023	1	<b>Policy:</b> Exclusion and Suspension Policy
<b>Next Review:</b> September 2024		<b>Revised by:</b> Ollie Sharp

## **Introduction**

Good discipline is essential to ensure that all pupils can benefit from the opportunities provided by education. The school's behaviour policy outlines expectations and key strategies for good behaviour. The government supports Principals and Head of Schools in using exclusion as a sanction where it is warranted. However, exclusion or suspension should only be used as a last resort, in response to a serious breach, or persistent breaches, of the school's behaviour policy; and where allowing a pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school. We as a school recognize that exclusion can be very detrimental to pupils, especially those with attachment difficulties.

## **Types of exclusion**

Suspension – a temporary exclusion

Permanent exclusion – Permanent removal from the school roll

Suspension may not be for more than 45 days in any one year.

It is to be noted that as an independent specialist provision Stone Lodge will **not** permanently exclude a pupil. If the school can no longer meet a pupil's needs an emergency annual review will be called and we will work the appropriate LA to source another school placement.

Suspension will only be considered if the school is unable to provide education offsite via outreach and will be a last resort.

## **Suspension**

Stone Lodge school does not intend ever to utilize the authority to suspend a pupil, however if it is necessary only the Principal can make that decision.

The decision to suspend a pupil must be lawful, reasonable and fair. Care is taken not to discriminate against pupils on the basis of protected characteristics, such as disability or race. Particular consideration is given to the fair treatment of pupils from groups who are vulnerable to exclusion.

Suspension will not be used for minor offences or as a punishment for non-attendance.

Where a pupil is suspended, steps will be taken to refer the pupil for support or to other relevant agencies.

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Fixed period exclusions may not exceed 45 days in any one school year; generally at these will be around 1 – 4 days in length.

Any consideration of an exclusion will include a risk assessment of the impact and safeguarding implications for the child who is excluded. A safeguarding risk assessment will be completed before any suspension.

#### Criteria for suspension

The decision to suspend a pupil will always be taken on the basis of Health and Safety. Pupils may be suspended for a fixed period as a consequence of:

- Deliberate physical assault on another pupil
- Deliberate physical assault of a member of staff
- Persistent refusal to comply with the school's behaviour policy
- Excessive damage to property
- Dealing/using illegal substances in school or in school transport
- Extreme racial/sexual abuse
- Extreme bullying
- Absconding from site putting themselves at risk
- Extreme threatening behaviour and/or verbal abuse towards staff or other pupils.

In all cases the school will discuss the issues surrounding the suspension with parents/carers and other relevant agencies and where necessary will arrange meetings to discuss these issues and what action is necessary to address them.

If a pupil is excluded for more than one day, work will be provided to complete at home during their absence from school.

#### Procedures for suspension

- There must be an investigation of any precipitating circumstances. This process will include senior staff, together with any other staff member involved and any other child involved
- Our usual recording procedures must be followed. The proper documenting of event, decisions and action is essential
- Precipitous action should be avoided whenever possible.
- In cases of alleged sexual/physical/drug abuse the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will make the initial assessment and then communicate with appropriate outside agencies
- Sometimes suspension has, unavoidably, to be arranged urgently. Even then proper arrangements must be made. Parents and Local Authorities will be

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informed and appropriate travel provision made. Las and social care (if appropriate) will be informed

- The school recognises that suspension can present a safeguarding issues and this will be fully considered
- After a suspension the re-integration will be planned and where appropriate a restorative meeting held.

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