

ARNFIELD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL **EXCLUSION POLICY**

March 2017

School Exclusion Policy

At Arnfield Independent School we recognise the behavioural difficulties that our young people may present. They may have had multiple or permanent exclusions from their previous schools. The use of exclusion has had little effect in modifying their behaviour.

Consequently, we only use exclusion / ending of placement as an absolute last resort.

This policy informs the School's use of exclusion. It is underpinned by the commitment to achieve two important aims:

- *To ensure the safety and well being of all members of the school community, and to maintain an appropriate educational environment in which all can learn and succeed.*
- *Realise the aim of reducing the need to use exclusion as a sanction.*

The decision to exclude a student or end their placement is a serious one. There are two main types of situation in which permanent exclusion/end of placement may be considered.

- *The first is a final step in a concerted process for dealing with disciplinary offences following the use of a wide range of strategies, which have been used without success. It is an acknowledgement that all reasonable & available strategies have been exhausted and is used as a last resort.*
- *The second is where there are exceptional circumstances and it is not appropriate to implement other strategies.*

There are exceptional circumstances which may make it appropriate to permanently exclude for a first or "one-off" offence. These include;

1. Serious actual or threatened violence against another student or a member of staff.
2. Sexual abuse or physical assault.
3. Supplying an illegal drug; or
4. Carrying an offensive weapon

The Head Teacher in conjunction with Arnfield Care Residential Management, will consider whether or not to inform the police where a criminal offence may have taken place. As far as practicable parents, will be informed as soon as possible, with Social Workers and Youth Offending Teams being made aware as applicable.

Arnfield has determined that the school will use exclusion/ termination of placement as its final sanction in ensuring the good order and discipline it believes is essential for effective learning to take place.

Exclusion will be used sparingly in response to serious breaches of school policy and discipline. It will normally only be used after other sanctions and counselling have failed to achieve the desired change in behaviour and attitude.

Termination of placement will only be used as a last resort, when all other reasonable steps have been taken and when allowing the child to remain in school would be seriously detrimental to the education/welfare of other students, teachers or care staff.

In applying this policy, the school will follow current education DFE and LA guidance and advice.

Fixed Term exclusions

Fixed term exclusions are not appropriate due to the nature of the placements of the young people placed at Arnfield Care.

Internal exclusions

1. Internal temporary exclusion (activity cessation) may be used where a young person's behaviour in the classroom or Outdoor Education activity is detrimental to the learning of others.
2. The behaviour is threatening towards staff or other students, is causing damage to property or behavioural risk is unacceptable.

In such circumstances supportive counselling will be undergone with care staff to resolve the situation.

The individual timetable and education plan of the young person may be altered until the situation is resolved. Use will be made of the Asdan Project and the Outdoor Education to ensure continuity of education.

Bob Mackenzie (Head Teacher) Arnfield Independent School
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