



SARK SCHOOL

## **Exclusion Policy**

The aims of Sark School are to promote a positive, caring and purposeful environment within which each member of the community may thrive. The school's belief is that there are some areas of life that cannot be easily put into simple rules and in the case of behaviour by pupils our basic rule is that we should 'treat other people as we would like to be treated ourselves'.

Where a child's behaviour is unsatisfactory the school operates a range of appropriate sanctions to help modify and correct the deficiency. Sanctions such as reflections, time out, community work, etc. are means of helping to improve behaviour. Individual programmes to improve behaviour are also used where it is felt that the more usual measures have failed to have the desired effect, e.g. through Report Cards that catch the pupil being good.

However, there are some instances of behaviour that are sufficiently serious in their nature that the school may wish to consider the use of a sanction to exclude a child from the school. The decision to use such a sanction is not one that would be taken lightly and the Head of School would expect to consult with parents prior to taking such a step, although it should be stated that the decision in such cases rests with the Head of School.

### **Procedures for exclusion**

An exclusion of a pupil is normally a temporary period of enforced absence away from school after which time the pupil is expected to return to school. The sanction may be used to allow time for: a full investigation to take place, involved parties to have the opportunity to reflect on their behaviour, as a sanction when other sanctions have proved ineffective, and/or as a deterrent to the pupil and/or others.

Prior to excluding a pupil the Head of School will ensure that a proper investigation is carried out, consider all the evidence collected, take a full statement from the pupil(s) concerned allowing the opportunity for the pupil to present his/her version of events, attempt to ascertain that a full and fair picture of the background to the event(s) has been given, and consult with the Board of Governors.

The Head of School is the only person with the power to exclude a pupil. Exclusions will normally be for a period of not less than one day and not more than forty five days in a school year.

Upon returning from a period of exclusion the behaviour of the pupil will be monitored and behaviour management strategies implemented to assist in improving the pupil's behaviour. Where a pupil's behaviour continues to be unacceptable a further period of exclusion may be utilised and, in the last resort where there appears little prospect of improvement or

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where the behaviour is sufficiently poor, permanent exclusion may be considered by the Head of School.

The parents of a pupil have the right to appeal against any decision by the Head of School to exclude their child permanently. Such appeals to be made in writing within 14 days of the decision to exclude being communicated and should be addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Governors and sent to the school's address. Any appeal against exclusion will be dealt with under the Stage 3 procedures of the school's Complaints Policy and Procedure.

A non-exhaustive list of the sorts of behaviour that could merit temporary or permanent exclusion includes the following:

- Physical assault against pupils or adults;
- Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against pupils or adults;
- Bullying;
- Abuse on grounds of race, religion/ belief, disability, Special Education Needs (etc.);
- Sexual misconduct;
- Drug and alcohol misuse;
- Smoking or vaping;
- Damage to property;
- Theft;
- Persistent disruptive behaviour; and
- Unreasonable or otherwise inappropriate parental behaviour.

Please note that exclusion may also be imposed by the school as a sanction for a series of minor misdemeanours.