

Exclusions

Lapage Primary school is committed to valuing diversity and to equality of opportunity. We aim to create and promote an environment in which pupils, parents and staff are treated fairly and with respect, and feel able to contribute to the best of their abilities.

The Governing Body recognise that it is unlawful to take into account anyone's gender, marital status, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, religious beliefs, age, or sexual orientation. Full consideration has been given to this during the formulation of the above policy as it is the governors' aim that no one should suffer discrimination, either directly or indirectly, or harassment on any of these grounds.

We aim to include, not exclude, and we approach all challenging behaviour in a supportive and positive way. We recognise that such behaviour can sometimes be symptomatic of a real, deeper need for our support and understanding. All children can go through times of inappropriate behaviour, and we strive to never "give up" easily on a child as we recognise that each person has a unique contribution to make to school life and we want to support them to achieve this.

A decision to exclude a pupil, either for a fixed period or permanently is seen as a last resort by the school. The physical and emotional health of our children and staff is our primary concern, and we therefore accept, that in some rare situations, exclusion may be necessary, if all other strategies have been exhausted. No exclusion will be initiated without first exhausting other strategies or, in the case of a serious single incident, a thorough investigation. All formal exclusions will be reported to the Local Authority using the appropriate forms as required.

Reasons for exclusion: ☐ Serious breach of the school's rules or policies; ☐ Risk of harm to the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school. Any exclusion will be at the decision of the Head teacher, in consultation with the Governing Body, as appropriate.

Temporary exclusion A temporary exclusion should be for the shortest time necessary. Ofsted evidence suggests that 1-3 days is usually enough to secure benefits without adverse educational consequences.

Persistent or cumulative problems Exclusion for a period of time from half a day to 5 days for persistent or cumulative problems would be imposed only when the school had already offered and implemented a range of support and management strategies. These strategies are outlined in the Behaviour and Discipline Policy (section 1).

Single incident Temporary exclusion may be used in response to a serious breach of school rules and policies or a disciplinary offence. In such cases the Head teacher will investigate the incident thoroughly and consider all evidence to support the allegation, taking account of the school's policies. The pupil will be encouraged to give his/her version of events and the Head teacher will check whether the incident may have been provoked, for example by bullying or racial harassment.

Permanent exclusion A permanent exclusion is a very serious decision and the Head teacher will consult with the Deputy Head teacher and Chair of the Governing Body before enforcing it.

As with a temporary exclusion, it will follow a range of strategies and be seen as a last resort, or it will be in response to a very serious breach of school rules and policies or a disciplinary offence such as: ☐ Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff; ☐ Possession or use of an illegal drug on school premises; ☐ Persistent bullying; ☐ Persistent racial harassment;

The decision to exclude

If the Head teacher decides to exclude a pupil he/she will: ☐ ensure that there is sufficient recorded evidence to support the decision; ☐ explain the decision to the pupil; ☐ contact the parents, explain the decision and ask that the child be collected; ☐ send a letter to the parents confirming the reasons for the exclusion, whether it is a permanent or temporary exclusion; the length of the exclusion and any terms or conditions agreed for the pupil's return; ☐ in cases of more than a day's exclusion, ensure that appropriate work is set and that ☐ arrangements are in place for it to be marked; ☐ plan how to address the pupil's needs and integration back into their class on his/her ☐ return; ☐ plan a meeting with parents and pupil on his/her return.