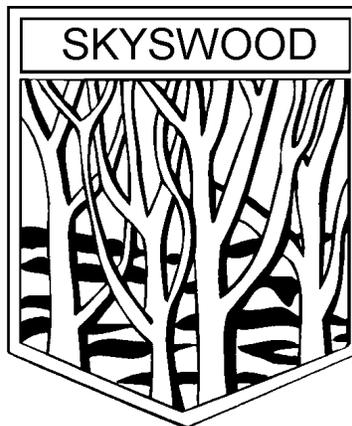


Skyswood Primary & Nursery School

Exclusions Policy



January 2020

Review Date - January 2022

Skyswood Primary and Nursery School follow the statutory guidance on Exclusions, as set out by the DfE (September 2017) through the document 'Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England.' DFE- 00184- 2017

Purpose

1. To ensure that exclusion from school is a rare occurrence and, in the event of an exclusion, is the appropriate action in relation to a given set of circumstances.
2. To provide guidance on the appropriate procedures to be followed in the event of a potential exclusion.

Guidelines

1. Exclusion is a sanction that can be used solely by the Headteacher, or Deputy, in his absence and then confirmed by the Governing Body.
2. Exclusion for a period of the lunchtime or day, for short, long term, or an indefinite period should be considered when there is serious disruption to other pupils' work or threats to individual safety.
3. Exclusion should be considered in the light of long term effect on the suspended pupil.
4. Exclusion from school is a most serious event and should be considered only as an ultimate sanction. Our preventative approach is reflected through the school's Positive Behaviour Policy.

Involving Other Agencies

The school is committed to working in liaison with parents. In the event of any incident of unacceptable behaviour the Headteacher, or Deputy Headteacher in his absence, shall in the first instance endeavour to establish all of the facts. Parents will be contacted **immediately** in the event of any **serious incident**, or in the event of repeated incidents of 'lower level' yet unacceptable behaviour. Every effort will be made to agree a positive Action Plan that will avoid the scenario of 'excluding' a pupil. Where appropriate, other agencies such as LINKS will be consulted in order to offer advice and / or support. Parents will, under such circumstances be invited into school to discuss the proposed Action Plan and be informed of the school policy with regard to exclusion.

In any situation where the Headteacher cannot guarantee the subsequent safety of others, or where the education of other children is in danger of being compromised due to the actions of an individual, then the Headteacher and Governors would have no alternative other than to impose an immediate exclusion.

The school would make every effort to ensure that any exclusion was short term and that a resolution could be agreed. However, an individual would only return to school in circumstances where the Headteacher and Governors were confident that the education and safety of other children and /or staff would not be in any way compromised. In circumstances where parents are unable to agree upon an appropriate Action Plan then the school would contact other agencies, such as LINKS, in order to agree a 'managed move' to another school in the interests of the child facing exclusion.

STEPS

Staff at Skyswood Primary and Nursery School place great emphasis on the social and emotional well-being of children and are committed to a therapeutic approach to learning, in line with the STEPS approach that has been adopted within Hertfordshire. All staff have been STEPS trained and the principles of STEPS are embedded within our school culture. We do, however, recognise that all children are unique individuals and that the same approach will not be effective for all children. Care is taken to support each child with positive strategies that are be-spoke and appropriate to their needs. Where necessary, strategies such as Roots and Fruits assessments, anxiety mapping, and Risk Reduction Plans are put into place to support our children.

CPOMS (Child Protection Online Monitoring and Safeguarding System)

All evidence relating to a possible exclusion is recorded objectively and dated as appropriate. The school records any incident of unacceptable behaviour through CPOMS. Parents are informed as soon as possible of any behavioural incidents involving their child. Every effort is made to ensure that positive resolutions are agreed, reducing the risk of further incidents or exclusion.

Racial Incidents / Incidents of Bullying

Racial incidents and incidents of Bullying are also recorded through CPOMS. The appropriate Herts County forms are completed for all racial incidents or bullying incidents. The school is proud of its inclusive nature and will not tolerate any level of prejudice, discrimination or bullying. Skyswood Primary and Nursery School have adopted the Herts County Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy.

Lunchtime Exclusions

In the event of 'unacceptable' behaviour patterns being exclusive to playtimes, where the Headteacher and Governors are confident that the safety of other children, and the quality of their education are not compromised during lesson times, then the school shall initially consider lunchtime exclusions, where parents / carers are responsible for collecting the child at the beginning of a lunch period and returning the child to school for the afternoon session. In such instances the school will make appropriate arrangements for morning play, with regard to the individual Action Plan and the safety and welfare of other children and staff.

Informing Parents

In any instance of exclusion, parents/carers will be officially informed through a formal letter. The letter will state the reason/s for exclusion and the precise period of exclusion. Parents will be informed that excluded children MUST legally be supervised by an appropriate adult and stay at home for the period of exclusion. The school will provide appropriate work for the child to undertake during the period of exclusion. This must be brought into the school on the day of re-integration. Parents will be informed of the date and time of the re-integration meeting and it will be requested for parents/carers to be present. The re-integration meeting will aim to find positive resolutions to support the child in school and reduce the risk of further exclusion.

Appeals Procedures

The parents / carers of any child have the right to appeal the decision of the Headteacher and Chair of Governors in excluding their child. The Appeals Committee would follow procedures as set out by Herts County. The Headteacher and Chair of Governors shall not be allowed to sit on the Appeals Committee or endeavour to influence the decisions made by the Appeals Committee. The Headteacher would, however, submit a report showing the recorded evidence that informed the decision to exclude a pupil.

Conclusion

Skyswood Primary and Nursery School adhere to Herts County recommendations when considering any possible exclusion. It is the intention of this policy to re-affirm exclusion as an ultimate sanction within the school's Positive Behaviour Policy. Our policy follows the guidelines as indicated in 'Exclusions from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England' – statutory guidance for those with legal responsibilities with regard to exclusion.