Alton Infant School
Sowing the seeds of learning

Exclusions Policy

Date approved by the Full Governing Body: - September 2026

Date of review: - September 2027

Alton Infant School is committed to providing the highest standards of education and care that offers equality of opportunity and is socially inclusive to all its pupils.

In recognising that there are certain instances where it may be necessary to permanently exclude a pupil or suspend a pupil for a fixed period of time, the school will follow the DfE Exclusion guidance found at:-

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-suspensions-and-permanent-exclusions

Permanent exclusion or suspension for a fixed period of time will be used as a sanction in order to create a calm, safe and supportive environment where both staff and pupils can work in safety and are respected. Alton Infant School recognises that permanent exclusion or suspension for a fixed period of time are sometimes a necessary part of a functioning system where not all pupil behaviour can be amended or remedied by pastoral processes or consequences within the school.

The school will work in partnership with Hampshire County Council's Inclusion Team should the permanent exclusion or suspension of a pupil be decided or considered. Whenever a permanent exclusion or suspension is actioned and put into place, parents will be notified without delay and DFE exclusion guidance will be followed with regard to providing parents with the relevant information.

A decision to exclude a pupil will only be taken by the Headteacher in response to serious breaches of a school's behaviour policy and/or if allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others, including staff, in the school.

Types of circumstances that may warrant a suspension or permanent exclusion include:-

• Physical assault against a pupil

• Physical assault against an adult

• Verbal abuse or threatening behaviour against a pupil

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• Use, or threat of use, of an offensive weapon or prohibited item that has been prohibited by a school's behaviour policy

• Bullying

• Racist abuse

• Abuse against sexual orientation or gender reassignment • Abuse relating to disability.

This list is not exhaustive and is intended to offer examples rather than be complete or definitive.

The Headteacher will:

- Consider all relevant facts and firm evidence to support allegations. If there are any doubts the pupil should not be excluded.
- Allow the pupil to give their version of events.
- Check whether the child was provoked.
- If necessary consult others – being careful not to involve anyone who may later take part in the statutory review of the decision.
- If necessary, take into account a pupil's SEND needs and whether or not the correct SEND provision and adjustments were in place.

<u>Exclusion will not be used for:</u>

- Minor incidents
- Poor academic performance
- Lateness or truancy
- Breaching uniform policy
- Punishing pupils for behaviour of parents
- The school not being able to meet the SEND needs of a pupil.

In most cases a range of alternative strategies to promote social inclusion e.g. a personal/pastoral/behaviour support plan involving outside agencies, will have been tried and failed, before a pupil is excluded.

However, the implementation of the following policies aims to ensure all children are integrated into school successfully. The policies are:-

- Behaviour Management
- Anti-Bullying
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Supporting Children with Medical Conditions
- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural
- Physical Intervention
- Special Educational Needs and disabilities
- Single equalities.

Policies that impact exclusion will be reviewed and updated regularly, by the Whole Governing Body and will reflect any changes to exclusion legislation such as behaviour, equality or disability.