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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Updated guidance on suspensions and permanent exclusions 2026

[Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement](#)

Updates to School Procedures

We are writing to let you know about some important changes to the Department for Education (DfE) guidance relating to suspensions, permanent exclusions, Off-Site Directions and Managed Moves. These changes came into effect in July 2026 and schools are required to follow the updated guidance.

At our school, we remain committed to supporting every child to be successful, while also ensuring that our school is a safe and positive environment for all pupils and staff.

What is staying the same?

Our approach remains focused on:

- Early support and intervention.
- Working closely with families.
- Helping pupils learn from mistakes using a restorative approach.
- Using suspension and permanent exclusion only when necessary and in line with statutory guidance.

What is an Off-Site Direction?

An Off-Site Direction (OSD) is a temporary placement at another educational setting to help improve a pupil's behaviour and support a successful return to school. It is not a punishment and is only considered when other support strategies have not been successful.

Under the new guidance:

- Parents must receive at least two school days' notice before an Off-Site Direction begins.
- Parents will receive full details of the placement before it starts.
- Regular review meetings will take place to discuss progress and next steps.
- Parents will be invited to attend these review meetings and share their views.

What is a Managed Move?

A Managed Move is a permanent move from one school to another when it is considered to be in the best interests of a pupil.

The new guidance makes it clear that:

- Managed Moves must be agreed by all parties.
- There can no longer be "trial" managed moves.
- Schools must follow the normal admissions process.
- Parents must not feel pressured to agree to a Managed Move.

New Safeguarding Arrangements

In some rare situations, schools may need to temporarily separate pupils for safeguarding reasons. This might happen while concerns are being investigated to ensure everyone's safety.

It is important to note that:

- This is not a suspension.
- It is not a behavioural sanction.
- Decisions will always be based on safeguarding needs and risk assessments and discussed with the Director of Safeguarding.

Clarification Around Suspensions

The updated guidance also clarifies that:

- A suspension cannot simply be extended.
- However, in exceptional circumstances, further evidence may lead to a further suspension or a permanent exclusion if this is lawful, reasonable and proportionate.

Protecting Pupils' Rights

The guidance strengthens protections for pupils and families by making clear that schools must not:

- Send pupils home without following the formal suspension process.
- Use part-time timetables for behaviour reasons without appropriate procedures.
- Pressure families into home education.
- Remove pupils from school rolls inappropriately.

Our Commitment to You

We will continue to work closely with parents and carers whenever concerns arise. Our aim is always to provide support; maintain high standards of behaviour and ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed in a safe and respectful learning environment.

If you have any questions about these changes, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



H Bridge Headteacher



L Nussey Deputy Headteacher (Inclusion)