

Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy

[VERSION 4.0]
CONCORDIA MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



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This document is to be completed in full and a copy to be retained with all suspension parthis is to be retained in the pupil file and uploaded to CPOMS if appropriate	perwork. 25

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1. Document Control

Amendment History

Version No.	Date	Comments
2.0	June 2022	Trust wide policy
3.0	Sept 2022	Updated to reflect new guidance
4.0	January 2024	Updated to reflect new guidance

Review Dates

Next Review Date	
January 2025	

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Name	Role
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2. Statement of Intent

Concordia Multi Academy Trust understand that good behaviour and discipline is essential for promoting a high-quality education.

Amongst other disciplinary sanctions, the Trust recognises that suspension of pupils may be necessary where there has been a serious breach, or consistent breaches, of the school's Behaviour Policy. Suspending or excluding a pupil may also be required in instances where allowing the pupil to remain in school would be damaging to the education and welfare of themselves, others or staff. In all cases, suspending or excluding pupils should only be used as a means of last resort.

The Trust has created this policy to clearly define the legal responsibilities of the headteacher, Local Academy Board, Trust and LA when responding to pupil suspensions and permanent exclusions, to ensure that they are dealt with both fairly and lawfully, and in line with DfE statutory guidance. This policy also aims to secure a pupil's right to an education despite having been suspended/excluded, by ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place.

A note on off-rolling

Our Trust is aware that off-rolling is unlawful. Ofsted defines off-rolling as:

"The practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without a formal, permanent exclusion or by encouraging a parent to remove their child from the school roll, when the removal is primarily in the interests of the school rather than in the best interests of the pupil."

We will not suspend or exclude pupils unlawfully by directing them off site, or not allowing pupils to attend school:

- Without following the statutory procedure or formally recording the event, e.g. sending them home to 'cool off'
- Because they have special educational needs and/or a disability (SEND) that the school feels unable to support
- Due to poor academic performance
- Secause they haven't met a specific condition, such as attending a reintegration meeting
- By exerting undue influence on a parent to encourage them to remove their child from the school



3. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

<u>Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement (publishing.service.gov.uk)</u>

It is based on the following legislation, which outlines schools' powers to exclude pupils:

- Section 51a of the Education Act 2002, as amended by the Education Act 2011
- The School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2023

In addition, the policy is based on:

- Part 7, chapter 2 of the <u>Education and Inspections Act 2006</u>, which sets out parental responsibility for excluded pupils
- Section 579 of the Education Act 1996, which defines 'school day'
- The Education (Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended by The Education (Provision of Full-Time Education for Excluded Pupils) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014
- The Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- ^c This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.
- ^c DfE (2022) 'Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement'
- OfE (2022) 'Behaviour in Schools'
- DfE (2015) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- OfE (2018) 'Mental health and behaviour in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Pupil Code of Conduct
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

Useful source of reference for parents and carers from the Department of Education.

A guide for parents on school behaviour and exclusion - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusions-guide-for-parents/a-guide-for-parents-on-school-behaviour-and-exclusion



4. Definitions

Suspension – when a pupil is removed from the school for a fixed period. This was previously referred to as a 'fixed-term exclusion'.

Off-site direction – when a Local Academy Board requires a pupil to attend another education setting temporarily, to improve their behaviour.

Local Academy Board – a group of volunteers who support the Headteacher and Trust in overseeing the school. Commonly known as school Governors.

Managed move – when a pupil is transferred to another school permanently. All parties, including parents and the admission authority for the new school, should consent before a managed move occurs.

Permanent exclusion — when a pupil is removed from the school permanently and taken off the school roll. This is sometimes referred to as an 'exclusion'.

Parent – any person who has parental responsibility and any person who has care of the child.



5. Roles and responsibilities

Only the Headteacher, or member of the Senior Leadership Team when s/he is acting in the Headteacher's absence, can suspend or permanently exclude a pupil from school on disciplinary grounds. If it is not the Head teacher making the decision, the situation will be discussed with the CEO before issuing any suspension or permanent exclusion. The decision can be made in respect of behaviour inside or outside of school. The headteacher will only use permanent exclusion as a last resort.

A decision to suspend or exclude a pupil will be taken only:

- In response to serious or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, and
- If allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of others (including staff and pupils)

Before deciding whether to suspend or exclude a pupil, the headteacher will:

- Consider all the relevant facts and evidence on the balance of probabilities, including whether the incident(s) leading to the suspension or permanent exclusion were provoked
- Allow the pupil to give their version of events
- Consider whether the pupil has special educational needs (SEND)
- Consider whether the pupil is especially vulnerable (e.g., the pupil has a social worker, or is a looked-after child (LAC))
- Consider whether all alternative solutions have been explored, such as off-site direction or managed moves
- Consult the Chief Executive Officer if a permanent exclusion is being considered.

The headteacher will consider the views of the pupil, considering their age and understanding, before deciding to suspend or exclude, unless it would not be appropriate to do so.

Pupils who need support to express their views will be allowed to have their views expressed through an advocate, such as a parent or social worker.

The headteacher will not reach their decision until they have heard from the pupil, as appropriate, and will inform the pupil of how their views were considered when making the decision.

The headteacher may cancel any suspension or exclusion that has already begun, or one that has not yet begun providing the suspension or exclusion has not already been reviewed by the Local Academy Board.

Where a suspension or exclusion is cancelled, the headteacher will notify the pupil's parents, the Local Academy Board, the LA, and, where relevant, the virtual school head (VSH) and the pupil's social worker. The notification will also provide the reason for the cancellation. The headteacher will offer the pupil's parents the opportunity to meet with the headteacher to discuss the circumstances that led to the cancellation of the suspension or exclusion, and the pupil will be allowed back into school without delay.



When a suspension or exclusion is cancelled, the Local Academy Board's duty to consider reinstatement ceases, and there is no requirement to hold a meeting to consider reinstatement.

Any days spent out of school as a result of a suspension or exclusion prior to it being cancelled will count towards the maximum 45 school days that a pupil can be suspended or excluded in an academic year. A permanent exclusion will not be cancelled if the pupil has already been suspended or excluded for more than 45 school days in an academic year or if they will have been so by the time the cancellation takes effect.

Providing education during the first 5 days of a suspension or permanent exclusion

During the first 5 days of a suspension, if the pupil is not attending alternative (AP) provision, the headteacher will take steps to ensure that achievable and accessible work is set and marked for the pupil. Online pathways such as Google Classroom or Oak Academy may be used for this. If the pupil has a special educational need or disability, the headteacher will make sure that reasonable adjustments are made to the provision where necessary.

If the pupil is looked after or if they have a social worker, the school will work with the LA to arrange AP from the first day following the suspension or permanent exclusion. Where this is not possible, the school will take reasonable steps to set and mark work for the pupil, including the use of online pathways.



6. Who is informed?

Informing parents

If a pupil is at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion, the headteacher will inform the parents as early as possible, in order to work together to consider what factors may be affecting the pupil's behaviour, and what further support can be put in place to improve the behaviour.

If the headteacher decides to suspend or exclude a pupil, the parents will be informed of the period of the suspension or permanent exclusion and the reason(s) for it, without delay.

The parents will also be provided with the following information in writing, without delay:

- The reason(s) for the suspension or permanent exclusion
- The length of the suspension or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent
- Information about parents' right to make representations about the suspension or permanent exclusion to the Local Academy Board and how the pupil may be involved in this
- How any representations should be made
- Their right to make a request to hold the meeting via remote access and how this request can be made.
- Where there is a legal requirement for the Local Academy Board to hold a meeting to consider the reinstatement of a pupil, and that parents (or the pupil if they are 18 years old) have a right to attend the meeting, be represented at the meeting (at their own expense) and to bring a friend

The headteacher will also notify parents without delay and by the end of the afternoon session on the first day their child is suspended or permanently excluded, that:

- For the first 5 school days of a suspension (or until the start date of any alternative provision or the end of the suspension, where this is earlier), the parents are legally required to ensure that their child is not present in a public place during school hours without a good reason. This will include specifying on which days this duty applies
- Parents may be given a fixed penalty notice or prosecuted if they fail to do this

If alternative provision is being arranged, the following information will be included, if possible:

- The start date for any provision of full-time education that has been arranged
- The start and finish times of any such provision, including the times for morning and afternoon sessions, where relevant
- The address at which the provision will take place
- Any information the pupil needs in order to identify the person they should report to on the first day

If the headteacher does not have the all the information about the alternative provision arrangements by the end of the afternoon session on the first day of the suspension or permanent



exclusion, they can provide the information at a later date, without delay and no later than 48 hours before the provision is due to start.

The only exception to this is where alternative provision is to be provided before the sixth day of a suspension or permanent exclusion, in which case the school reserves the right to provide the information with less than 48 hours' notice, with parents' consent.

Informing the Local Academy Board

The headteacher will, without delay, notify the Local Academy Board of:

- Any permanent exclusion, including when a suspension is followed by a decision to permanently exclude a pupil
- Any suspension or permanent exclusion which would result in the pupil being suspended or permanently excluded for a total of more than 5 school days (or more than 10 lunchtimes) in a term
- Any suspension or permanent exclusion which would result in the pupil missing a National Curriculum test or public exam

The headteacher will notify the Local Academy Board once per term of any other suspensions of which they have not previously been notified, and the number of suspensions and permanent exclusions that have been cancelled, including the circumstances and reasons for the cancellation.

Informing the Local Authority (LA)

The headteacher will notify the LA of all suspensions and permanent exclusions without delay, regardless of the length of a suspension.

The notification will include:

- ^c The reason(s) for the suspension or permanent exclusion
- The length of a suspension or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent

For a permanent exclusion, if the pupil lives outside the LA in which the school is located, the headteacher will also, without delay, inform the pupil's 'home authority' of the permanent exclusion and the reason(s) for it.



Informing the pupil's social worker and/or virtual school head (VSH)

If a:

- Pupil with a social worker is at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion, the headteacher
 will inform the social worker as early as possible
- Pupil who is a looked-after child (LAC) is at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion, the headteacher will inform the VSH as early as possible

This is in order to work together to consider what factors may be affecting the pupil's behaviour, and what further support can be put in place to improve the behaviour.

If the headteacher decides to suspend or permanently exclude a pupil with a social worker / a pupil who is looked after, they will inform the pupil's social worker / the VSH, as appropriate, without delay, that:

- They have decided to suspend or permanently exclude the pupil
- The reason(s) for the decision
- ^C The length of the suspension or, for a permanent exclusion, the fact that it is permanent
- The suspension or permanent exclusion affects the pupil's ability to sit a National Curriculum test or public exam (where relevant)

The social worker / VSH will be invited to any meeting of the Local Academy Board about the suspension or permanent exclusion. This is so they can provide advice on how the pupil's background and/or circumstances may have influenced the circumstances of their suspension or permanent exclusion. The social worker should also help ensure safeguarding needs and risks and the pupil's welfare are taken into account.

Social workers and VSHs will be allowed to join a Local Academy Board meeting or independent review panel via the use of remote access, as long as the arranging authority is satisfied they will be able to participate effectively, they can hear and be heard throughout the meeting, and their remote participation will not prevent the meeting being fair and transparent.



7. Cancelling suspensions and permanent exclusions

The headteacher may cancel a suspension or permanent exclusion that has already begun, but this will only be done where it has not yet been reviewed by the Local Academy Board. Where there is a cancellation:

- ^C The parents, Local Academy Board and LA will be notified without delay
- Where relevant, any social worker and VSH will be notified without delay
- Parents will be offered the opportunity to meet with the headteacher to discuss the cancellation
- As referred to above, the headteacher will report to the Local Academy Board once per term on the number of cancellations
- ^c The pupil will be allowed back in school



8. Reintegration strategy

Following suspension, the school will put in place a strategy to help the pupil reintegrate successfully into school life and full-time education.

Where necessary, the school will work with third-party organisations to identify whether the pupil has any unmet special educational and/or health needs.

The following measures may be implemented, as part of the strategy, to ensure a successful reintegration into school life:

- Maintaining regular contact during the suspension or off-site direction and welcoming the pupil back to school
- Daily contact in school with a designated member of school staff
- Regular reviews with the pupil and parents to praise progress being made and raise and address any concerns at an early stage
- Informing the pupil, parents, and staff of potential external support

Part-time timetables will not be used as a tool to manage behaviour and, if used, will be put in place for the minimum time necessary.

The strategy will be regularly reviewed and adapted where necessary throughout the reintegration process in collaboration with the pupil, parents, and other relevant parties.

Reintegration meetings

The school will explain the reintegration strategy to the pupil in a reintegration meeting before or on the pupil's return to school. During the meeting the school will communicate to the pupil that they are getting a fresh start and that they are a valued member of the school community.

The pupil, parents, a member of senior staff, and any other relevant staff will be invited to attend the meeting.

The meeting can proceed without the parents in the event that they cannot or do not attend.

The school expects all returning pupils and their parents to attend their reintegration meeting, but pupils who do not attend will not be prevented from returning to the classroom.



9. LAB considering suspensions and permanent exclusions

The Local Academy Board will consider any representations made by parents/carers regarding a suspension or permanent exclusion. It has a duty to consider the reinstatement of a suspended or permanently excluded pupil in certain circumstances.

Within 14 days of receiving a request, the Trust will provide the secretary of state with information about any suspensions or permanent exclusions within the last 12 months.

Monitoring and analysing suspensions and permanent exclusions data

The Local Academy Board will challenge and evaluate the data on the school's use of suspension, permanent exclusion, off-site direction to alternative provision and managed moves.

The Local Academy Board will consider:

- How effectively and consistently the school's behaviour policy is being implemented
- The school register and absence codes
- Instances where pupils receive repeat suspensions
- Interventions in place to support pupils at risk of suspension or permanent exclusion
- Any variations in the rolling average of permanent exclusions, to understand why this is happening, and to make sure they are only used when necessary
- Timing of moves and permanent exclusions, and whether there are any patterns, including any indications which may highlight where policies or support are not working
- The characteristics of suspended and permanently excluded pupils, and why this is taking place
- Whether the placements of pupils directed off-site into alternative provision are reviewed at sufficient intervals to assure that the education is achieving its objectives and that pupils are benefiting from it
- The cost implications of directing pupils off-site

The local authority (LA)

For permanent exclusions, the LA will arrange suitable full-time education to begin no later than the sixth school day after the first day of the permanent exclusion.

For pupils who are LAC or have social workers, the LA and the school will work together arrange suitable full-time education to begin from the first day of the permanent exclusion.



10. LAB considering the reinstatement of a pupil

The Local Academy Board will consider and decide on the reinstatement of a suspended or permanently excluded pupil within 15 school days of receiving the notice of the suspension or permanent exclusion if:

- It is a permanent exclusion
- It is a suspension which would bring the pupil's total number of days out of school to more than 15 in a term; or
- It would result in a pupil missing a public exam or National Curriculum test

Where the pupil has been suspended, and the suspension does not bring the pupil's total number of days of suspension to more than 5 in a term, the Local Academy Board must consider any representations made by parents. However, it is not required to arrange a meeting with parents, and it cannot direct the headteacher to reinstate the pupil.

Where the pupil has been suspended for more than 5 days, but less than 16 school days, if parents make representations to the board, the Local Academy Board will consider and decide on the reinstatement of a suspended pupil within 50 school days of receiving notice of the suspension. If the parents do not make representations, the board is not required to meet, and it cannot direct the headteacher to reinstate the pupil.

Where a suspension or permanent exclusion would result in a pupil missing a public exam or National Curriculum test, the Local Academy Board will, as far as reasonably practicable, consider and decide on the reinstatement of the pupil before the date of the exam or test. If this is not practicable, the Local Academy Board may consider the suspension or permanent exclusion and decide whether or not to reinstate the pupil.

The following parties will be invited to a meeting of the Local Academy Board and allowed to make representations or share information:

- Parents, or the pupil if they are 18 or over (and, where requested, a representative or friend)
- The pupil, if they are aged 17 or younger and it would be appropriate to their age and understanding (and, where requested, a representative or friend)
- The headteacher
- The pupil's social worker if they have one
- The VSH, if the pupil is looked after

The Local Academy board will try to arrange the meeting within the statutory time limits set out above and must try to have it at a time that suits all relevant parties. Parents are able to request that the meeting is held via remote access. However, its decision will not be invalid simply on the grounds that it was not made within these time limits.



The Local Academy Board can either:

- Decline to reinstate the pupil, or
- Direct the reinstatement of the pupil immediately, or on a particular date (except in cases where the board cannot do this see earlier in this section)

In reaching a decision, the Local Academy Board will consider:

- Whether the decision to suspend or permanently exclude was lawful, reasonable, and procedurally fair
- Whether the headteacher followed their legal duties
- The welfare and safeguarding of the pupil and their peers
- Any evidence that was presented to the Local Academy Board
- They will decide whether or not a fact is true 'on the balance of probabilities'.

Minutes will be taken of the meeting, and a record kept of the evidence that was considered. The outcome will also be recorded on the pupil's educational record, and copies of relevant papers will be kept with this record.

The Local Academy Board will notify, in writing, the following stakeholders of its decision, along with reasons for its decision, without delay:

- ^C The parents, or the pupil, if they are 18 or older
- The headteacher
- The pupil's social worker if they have one
- The VSH, if the pupil is looked after
- The local authority
- C The pupil's home authority if it differs from the school's

Where a permanent exclusion is permanent and the Local Academy Board has decided not to reinstate the pupil, the notification of decision will also include the following:

- [←] The fact that it is a permanent exclusion.
- Notice of parents' right to ask for the decision to be reviewed by an independent review panel
- The date by which an application for an independent review must be made (15 school days from the date on which notice in writing of the Local Academy Board's decision is given to parents)
- The name and address to which an application for a review and any written evidence should be submitted
- That any application should set out the grounds on which it is being made and that, where appropriate, it should include reference to how the pupil's special educational needs (SEND) are considered to be relevant to the permanent exclusion



- That, regardless of whether the excluded pupil has recognised SEND, parents have a right to require the Academy Trust to appoint a SEND expert to advise the review panel
- Details of the role of the SEND expert and that there would be no cost to parents for this appointment
- ^C That parents must make clear if they wish for a SEND expert to be appointed in any application for a review
- That parents may, at their own expense, appoint someone to make written and/or oral representations to the panel, and parents may also bring a friend to the review
- That, if parents believe that the permanent exclusion has occurred as a result of unlawful discrimination, they may make a claim under the Equality Act 2010 to the first-tier tribunal (special educational needs and disability), in the case of disability discrimination, or the county court, in the case of other forms of discrimination. Also, that any claim of discrimination made under these routes should be lodged within 6 months of the date on which the discrimination is alleged to have taken place.



11. Independent review

If parents apply for an independent review within the legal timeframe, Concordia Academy Trust will arrange for an independent panel to review the decision of the Local Academy Board not to reinstate a permanently excluded pupil.

Applications for an independent review must be made within 15 school days of notice being given to the parents by the Local Academy Board of its decision to not reinstate the pupil **or**, if after this time, within 15 school days of the final determination of a claim of discrimination under the Equality Act 2010 regarding the permanent exclusion.

A panel of 3 or 5 members will be constituted with representatives from each of the categories below. Where a 5-member panel is constituted, 2 members will come from the school governor category and 2 members will come from the headteacher category. At all times during the review process there must be the required representation on the panel. Parents can request that independent review panels take place via remote access.

- A lay member to chair the panel who has not worked in any school in a paid capacity, disregarding any experience as a school governor or volunteer
- Current or former school governors who have served as a governor for at least 12 consecutive months in the last 5 years, provided they have not been teachers or headteachers during this time
- Headteachers or individuals who have been a headteacher within the last 5 years

A person may not serve as a member of a review panel if they:

- Are a member of the Local Academy Board of the excluding school
- Are the headteacher of the excluding school, or have held this position in the last 5 years
- Are an employee of the or the Local Academy Board, of the excluding school.
- ^C Have, or at any time have had, any connection with the school, Local Academy Board, parents or pupil, or the incident leading to the permanent exclusion, which might reasonably be taken to raise doubts about their impartiality
- Have not had the required training within the last 2 years (see appendix 1 for what training must cover)

The panel must consider the interests and circumstances of the pupil, including the circumstances in which the pupil was permanently excluded, and have regard to the interests of other pupils and people working at the school.

Taking into account the pupil's age and understanding, the pupil or their parents will be made aware of their right to attend and participate in the review meeting and the pupil should be enabled to make representations on their own behalf, should they desire to.

Where a SEND expert is present, the panel must seek and have regard to the SEND expert's view of how SEND may be relevant to the pupil's permanent exclusion.



Where a social worker is present, the panel must have regard to any representation made by the social worker of how the pupil's experiences, needs, safeguarding risks and/or welfare may be relevant to the pupil's permanent exclusion.

Where a VSH is present, the panel must have regard to any representation made by the social worker of how any of the child's background, education and safeguarding needs were considered by the headteacher in the lead up to the permanent exclusion or are relevant to the pupil's permanent exclusion.

Following its review, the independent panel will decide to do 1 of the following:

- Uphold the Local Academy Board's decision
- Recommend that the Local Academy Board reconsiders reinstatement
- Quash the Local Academy Board's decision and direct that they reconsider reinstatement (only if it judges that the decision was flawed)

New evidence may be presented, although the school cannot introduce new reasons for the permanent exclusion or the decision not to reinstate. The panel must disregard any new reasons that are introduced.

In deciding whether the decision was flawed, and therefore whether to quash the decision not to reinstate, the panel must only take account of the evidence that was available to the Local Academy Board at the time of making its decision. This includes any evidence that the panel considers would, or should, have been available to the Local Academy Board and that it ought to have considered if it had been acting reasonably.

If evidence is presented that the panel considers it is unreasonable to expect the Local Academy Board to have been aware of at the time of its decision, the panel can take account of the evidence when deciding whether to recommend that the Local Academy Board reconsider reinstatement.

The panel's decision can be decided by a majority vote. In the case of a tied decision, the chair has the casting vote.

Once the panel has reached its decision, the panel will notify all parties in writing without delay.

This notification will include:

- The panel's decision and the reasons for it
- Where relevant, details of any financial readjustment or payment to be made if the Local Academy Board does not subsequently decide to offer to reinstate the pupil within 10 school days
- Any information that the panel has directed the Local Academy Board to place on the pupil's educational record



12. School registers

A pupil's name will be removed from the school admission register if:

- 15 school days have passed since the parents were notified of the Local Academy Board's decision to not reinstate the pupil and no application has been made for an independent review panel, or
- The parents have stated in writing that they will not be applying for an independent review panel

Where an application for an independent review has been made within 15 school days, the Local Academy Board will wait until that review has concluded before removing a pupil's name from the register.

While the pupil's name remains on the school's admission register, the pupil's attendance will still be recorded appropriately. Where alternative provision has been made for an excluded pupil and they attend it, code B (education off-site) or code D (dual registration) will be used on the attendance register.

Where excluded pupils are not attending alternative provision, code E (absent) will be used.

Making a return to the LA

Where a pupil's name is to be removed from the school admissions register because of a permanent exclusion, the school will make a return to the LA. The return will include:

- The pupil's full name
- ^C The full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil normally resides
- At least 1 telephone number at which any parent with whom the pupil normally resides can be contacted in an emergency
- The grounds upon which their name is to be deleted from the admissions register (i.e., permanent exclusion)
- Details of the new school the pupil will attend, including the name of that school and the first date when the pupil attended or is due to attend there, if the parents have told the school the pupil is moving to another school
- Details of the pupil's new address, including the new address, the name of the parent(s) the pupil is going to live there with, and the date when the pupil is going to start living there, if the parents have informed the school that the pupil is moving house

This return must be made as soon as the grounds for removal is met and no later than the removal of the pupil's name.



13. Monitoring arrangements

The school will collect data on the following:

- Attendance, permanent exclusions, and suspensions
- Use of pupil referral units, off-site directions, and managed moves

The data will be analysed every term by the Local Academy Board.

The data will be analysed from a variety of perspectives including:

- At school level
- By age group
- By time of day/week/term
- Sy protected characteristic
- Anonymous surveys of staff, pupils, governors/trustees and other stakeholders on their perceptions and experiences will be carried out throughout the year.

The school will use the results of this analysis to make sure it is meeting its duties under the Equality Act 2010. If any patterns or disparities between groups of pupils are identified by this analysis, the school will review its policies in order to tackle it.

Concordia Academy Trust will work with its academies to consider this data, and to analyse whether there are patterns across the trust, recognising that numbers in any one academy may be too low to allow for meaningful statistical analysis.



14. Criminal investigations

The headteacher will not postpone taking a decision to suspend or exclude a pupil due to a police investigation being underway, or any criminal proceedings that are in place.

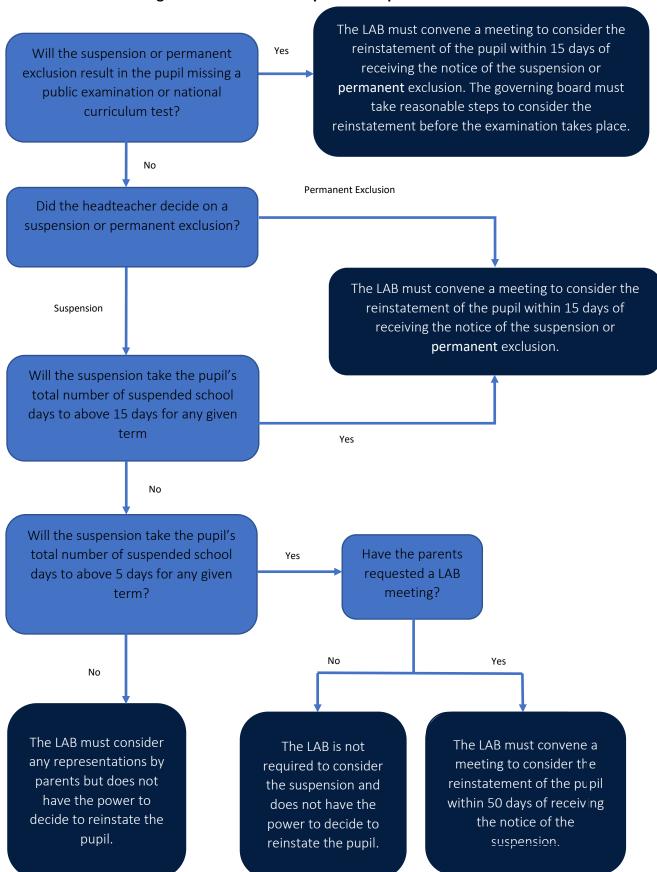
Particular consideration will be given by the headteacher when deciding to suspend or exclude a pupil where evidence is limited by a police investigation, to ensure that any decision made is fair and reasonable.

If the Local Academy Board is required to consider the headteacher's decision in these circumstances, they will not postpone the meeting and will make a decision based on the evidence available.



15. Appendix 1: Process Flowchart

Flowchart for reviewing the headteacher's suspension or permanent exclusion decision.





16. Appendix 2: Independent Review Panel training

Concordia Academy Trust will ensure that all members of an independent review panel and clerks have received training within the two years prior to the date of the review.

Training must cover:

- The requirements of the primary legislation, regulations and statutory guidance governing suspensions and permanent exclusions on disciplinary grounds, which would include an understanding of how the principles applicable in an application for judicial review relate to the panel's decision making
- The need for the panel to observe procedural fairness and the rules of natural justice
- The role of the chair and the clerk of a review panel
- ^C The duties of headteachers, Local Academy Board and the panel under the Equality Act 2010
- The effect of section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (acts of public authorities unlawful if not compatible with certain human rights) and the need to act in a manner compatible with human rights protected by that Act



17. Suspension Checklist

This document is to be completed in full and a copy to be retained with all suspension paperwork. This is to be retained in the pupil file and uploaded to CPOMS if appropriate.

Name of pupil	
Year group of pupil	
Does the pupil have a protected characteristic (e.g.	
SEND/diversity/FSM)	
Date of suspension (start and end including number of days)	
If pupil has been suspended previously, how many previous	
suspensions and days lost within the current term and	
school year?	
Reason for suspension	
Name and role of person who sanctioned the suspension	

	Tick or write
Have parent/carers been contacted and notified of the reason for the suspension, including	
the duration?	
Has the CEO been consulted?	
Has the Local Authority (LA exclusions team) been notified?	
If the pupil has a social worker, have they been informed?	
Has the virtual school been informed (if applicable)?	
Has a letter been produced outlining the details of the suspension and shared with the parent/carers?	
Has work been set for the duration of the suspension?	
Has a de-briefing meeting been held with the staff involved in the suspension to identify if	
anything could be changed or modified to avoid risk of repeated suspensions? NB. Ensure any	
staff absent from school are briefed upon their return.	
Has a date been set for a re-integration meeting? Record agreed date and time.	
Will the Headteacher lead the re-integration meeting from school? If not, who will do this?	
Was a re-integration meeting attended by parent/carers? (complete after meeting)	
Any notes or agreed actions from the meeting? If so, detail briefly below:	
Have pupil views been considered during the re-integration meeting? If not, detail reason	
below:	

Checklist completed by Date