



# Wednesbury Oak Academy

## Suspension and permanent exclusion policy

This policy was reviewed in October 2026 and will be reviewed October 2029

## **Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy**

### **1. Aims**

Wednesbury Oak Academy is committed to maintaining a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment where all pupils can thrive. We follow statutory guidance to ensure that suspensions and permanent exclusions are used fairly, consistently and only when necessary.

We aim to:

- Promote positive behaviour and inclusion.
- Ensure pupils and staff are safe.
- Support pupils at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure any suspension or permanent exclusion is lawful, reasonable and proportionate.
- Prevent unlawful practices such as off-rolling.

The school recognises its responsibilities under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly Articles 19 and 29.

### **2. Legal Framework**

This policy is based on the Department for Education statutory guidance *Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England* (2024), together with relevant legislation including the Education Act 2002, Education Act 2011, Equality Act 2010 and Children and Families Act 2014.

### **3. Key Principles**

#### **Suspension**

A suspension is a fixed period during which a pupil is not permitted to attend school.

#### **Permanent Exclusion**

A permanent exclusion is the removal of a pupil from the school roll.

The Headteacher will only suspend or permanently exclude a pupil:

- In response to serious or persistent breaches of the Behaviour Policy.
- Where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously affect the education, welfare or safety of others.

Permanent exclusion will always be a last resort.

The school will never use unlawful exclusion practices, including:

- Sending pupils home informally.
- Excluding pupils due to SEND needs the school has not sought to support.
- Excluding because of poor academic performance.
- Pressuring parents to remove their child from the school roll.

#### **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

##### **The Headteacher**

The Headteacher has sole responsibility for decisions relating to suspension and permanent exclusion.

Before making a decision, the Headteacher will:

- Consider all available evidence.
- Listen to the pupil's account.
- Consider SEND, safeguarding and vulnerability factors.
- Explore alternative strategies where appropriate.

The Headteacher will:

- Inform parents without delay.
- Notify the governing board and local authority as required.
- Inform social workers and Virtual School Heads where appropriate.
- Arrange suitable educational provision in line with statutory requirements.

##### **Governing Board**

The governing board, through its Pupil Discipline Committee, will:

- Consider representations from parents.
- Review cases where statutory requirements apply.
- Decide whether reinstatement is appropriate.
- Monitor exclusion data and patterns.

## **Local Authority**

The local authority will fulfil its statutory duties regarding alternative provision and independent review arrangements.

## **5. Reinstatement and Review**

The governing board will consider reinstatement in accordance with statutory timescales.

Following a permanent exclusion, parents have the right to request an Independent Review Panel within the statutory timeframe. Information about this process will be provided in writing.

## **6. Reintegration Following Suspension**

The school will support pupils returning from suspension through a reintegration process, which may include:

- Reintegration meetings.
- Pastoral support.
- Mentoring.
- Reasonable adjustments.
- Involvement of external agencies where appropriate.

The aim is to provide a fresh start and support successful re-engagement with learning.

## **7. Remote Meetings**

Parents may request governing board or independent review meetings to take place remotely where appropriate and where all participants can engage effectively.

## **8. Monitoring and Review**

The governing board will monitor:

- Suspension and permanent exclusion data.
- Patterns and trends.
- Impact on different groups of pupils.

This policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if legislation changes.

## **9. Related Policies**

- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- SEN Information Report
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy