Suspensions Policy



Sept 2026

Approved by PF&P Committee

Review Date Sept ‘27

This policy is underpinned by the commitment of all at Foxes Piece School to ensure the safety and well-being of the whole school community and to maintain an appropriate educational environment in which all can learn and achieve.

In this policy and the accompanying procedures the Governing Body aims to discharge appropriately its statutory duties as set out in The School Discipline (Pupil Suspension and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012.

Suspension is an extreme sanction and is only administered by the Headteacher (or, in the absence of the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher who is acting in that role). Before deciding whether to suspend a pupil either permanently or for a fixed period the Headteacher will ensure that :-

a) appropriate investigations have been carried out

b) all the evidence available has been considered

c) the pupil's version of events has been heard

d) that statutory guidance on suspensions, equalities policy and disability discrimination has been considered.

Having considered these matters the Headteacher will make a decision on suspension based on the balance of probabilities established. In reaching a decision, the Headteacher, or Deputy Headteacher will look at each case on its own merits.

Suspension, whether fixed term or permanent may be used for any of the following, all of which constitute examples of unacceptable conduct, and are infringements of the School's Behaviour Policy:

- Bullying, harassment, or abuse verbal, written or via forms of electronic communication, including acts of racism.
- Physical abuse of and violence or threats of violence towards staff or pupils
- Persistent defiance of Foxes Piece rules
- Acts of vandalism or violence
- Indecent behaviour
- Sexual abuse or assault
- Carrying an offensive weapon (any article made or adapted for causing injury to the person; or intended by the person having it)
- Conduct likely to bring the school into disrepute.
- Malicious Fire alarm
- Arson
- Possession of banned substances
- Theft
- Dangerous behaviour which may harm a pupil or member of staff.
- The use of electronic technology to record, without permission of a member of staff, images of buildings, pupils or staff of Foxes Piece School, irrespective of location.

• Uploading to the internet images or written content concerning Foxes Piece without the permission of a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

This is not an exhaustive list and there may be other situations where the Headteacher makes the judgment that suspension is an appropriate sanction. Strategies which may be used prior to Suspension Before resorting to suspension alternative solutions will be tried.

• Internal suspension

• Adapted school day

The school will make every effort to inform parents and carers of a fixed term suspension before the end of the school session by telephone This will be followed up in all cases with a letter. Parents and carers will be informed of the length of the suspension, the reasons for the suspension and their rights, including their right to make representations and who to contact if they wish to make representations about the suspension. When a pupil is required to be at home, parents/carers will be advised that the pupil is not allowed on the school premises, and that daytime supervision is their responsibility, as parents/carers. The letter will also make clear the date and time when the pupil should return to school for a reintegration meeting. The school will continue to provide schoolwork for all pupils on fixed term suspension and mark the work that is completed and returned to school. If a pupil with an EHCP is suspended the school may call an Interim Annual review seeking the advice of the LA.

The school will plan the return and reintegration into school after fixed term suspensions with parents/ carers and pupils. The Headteacher will inform the Local Authority within one school day of any fixed term suspensions totalling more than five school days per term and each term of fixed term suspensions totalling fewer than five school days a term. Governors are updated through the Premises, Finance and Personnel Committee and the Chair of Governors is informed at the time.

According to Department for Education guidance, school is obliged to provide full time education from the sixth day of any period of fixed term suspension of six days or longer. The school will consult with the LA officers for any suspension of more than five days in order that appropriate full-time education and transport is arranged. Permanent Suspension.

The decision to suspend a pupil permanently could be taken by the Headteacher in the following circumstances: -

a) in response to a serious breach, or persistent breaches, of the School's Behaviour Policy
b) where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in school

In the case of a permanent suspension the same process as that for fixed term suspensions will be followed except the communication will make clear that it is a permanent suspension.

The Headteacher will inform the Chair of Governors' and Local Authority within one school day of any permanent suspensions Equality Act 2010. The school will follow the guidance on the Equality Act 2010 published by the 'Equality and Human Rights Commission' in Section 5.4 entitled 'What equality law means for you as an educational provider' This guidance states that whilst a 'school must not discriminate against a pupil by excluding them from school', "it does not mean a school cannot suspend a pupil with a protected characteristic". The guidance recognises that "there may be occasions when it is appropriate to suspend a pupil with a protected characteristic" It stresses it is important that a school does not suspend 'because of' the protected characteristic.

Lunchtime Suspension - Pupils whose behaviour at lunchtime is disruptive may be suspended from the school premises for the duration of the lunchtime period. This will be treated as a fixed term suspension and parents will have the same right to gain information and to appeal.

Behaviour Outside School - Pupils' behaviour outside school, for example educational visits and journeys, away school sports fixtures or a work experience placement is subject to the School's Behaviour Policy. Inappropriate behaviour in these circumstances will be dealt with as if it had taken place in school. If pupils' behaviour in the immediate vicinity of the school or on a journey to and from school is inappropriate and meets the school criteria for suspension, then the Headteacher may decide to suspend.

Drug Related Suspensions - In deciding on whether or not to suspend for a drug-related offence the Headteacher will have regard to the school's published policy on drugs and substance misuse and will also seek advice from the Local Authority's Drugs Education Advisor.