



# Exclusions Policy

## 1. Introduction

At St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School & Nursery, we are committed to creating a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment, underpinned by our Christian values of **love, hope, wisdom, respect, fairness, courage, fellowship and service**. This policy outlines our approach to suspensions and permanent exclusions, in line with the DfE's statutory guidance (August 2022, February 2024 and May 2023).

Exclusion is a serious sanction, used only as a last resort and within the framework of our nurture principles and responsive approach to behaviour. We recognise that behaviour is a form of communication and may reflect unmet needs, distress, or wider contextual factors in a child's life.  
(Please read with Behaviour Policy)

## 2. Aims

- To ensure exclusions are applied fairly and consistently.
- To protect the rights of all pupils and staff to a safe learning environment.
- To promote understanding, reflection and restoration wherever possible.
- To prevent exclusions through early intervention, compassion and support.

## 3. Our Behaviour Philosophy

At St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School, we seek to live out our gospel values in every aspect of school life. When exclusion is considered, it is never taken lightly, but always within a framework of love, hope and fairness. We aim to respond with wisdom and courage, ensuring that children are supported to reflect, learn and grow from their experiences. Through fellowship and service, we work in partnership with families and the wider community to help every child return to learning with dignity and respect, ready to flourish in the life God has called them to.

## 4. Types of Exclusion

- **Suspension** (Fixed-term): Temporary removal from school for up to 45 days per academic year.
- **Permanent Exclusion**: Removal from the school roll (subject to review).
- **Lunchtime Suspension**: Treated as a half-day exclusion.
- **Internal Exclusion**: Removal from their own classroom and placed in another class

## 5. Grounds for Exclusion

Exclusion may be considered for serious or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy, such as:

- Physical assault or serious verbal abuse
- Repeated disruption of learning
- Bullying, racism, or discrimination
- Possession of prohibited items
- Persistent defiance despite targeted intervention
- Vandalism leading to significant damage to school property and resources

The decision to exclude will always be based on careful consideration of context and proportionality.

## 6. Decision-Making

Only the Headteacher may exclude a pupil. In making a decision, they will:

- Establish facts on the balance of probabilities.
- Consider the child's age, developmental needs, and any SEND or vulnerabilities.
- Take into account any contributing circumstances (e.g. bereavement, dysregulation).
- Assess whether appropriate, psychologically-informed responsive strategies have been exhausted.

## 7. Notification & Communication

Following an exclusion, the school will notify:

- **Parents/carers:** Without delay, verbally and in writing.
- **Governing Board and Local Authority:** As required by legislation.
- **Social worker or Virtual School Head (VSH):** If applicable.
- **SEND Case worker :** if applicable.

Written notification will include the reason for exclusion, duration, appeal rights, and any education arrangements.

## 8. Alternative Provision

If an exclusion exceeds 5 school days, the school will ensure that suitable full-time education is arranged from day 6 or sooner where possible.

## 9. Reintegration

Upon return, the school will:

- Hold a **reintegration meeting** with the pupil and parent(s).
- Communicate the value of the child as a member of the school community.
- Develop a personalised reintegration plan, identifying support needs and next steps.
- Use restorative and relational strategies to promote positive behaviour.

## 10. Supporting Vulnerable Pupils

The school is especially mindful of pupils who:

- Are looked-after or previously looked-after
- Have a social worker or safeguarding involvement
- Have SEND, medical or mental health needs

We will always consider additional support, multi-agency involvement, or a review of provision before resorting to exclusion.

## 11. Managed Moves and Off-Site Direction

Where provision is available, the school may arrange:

- A **managed move** (if with parental agreement) where a change of setting is in the pupil's best interest.
- A **time-limited off-site direction** as a behavioural intervention, with full monitoring and reintegration planning.

## 12. Prohibited Practices

St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School does not use:

- Informal/unrecorded exclusions
- Reinstatement conditions (e.g. compulsory parental meeting)
- Pressure on parents to withdraw their child

## 13. Appeals & Review

Parents/carers may:

- Request a Governing Board meeting to consider the exclusion.
- Request an Independent Review Panel for permanent exclusions.

We will signpost families to impartial advice (e.g. SENDIAS, IPSEA).

## 14. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Headteacher will regularly report to Governors on:

- The number, reason and pattern of exclusions
- Outcomes of reintegration plans
- Monitoring by gender, ethnicity, SEND and vulnerability

This policy will be reviewed annually or upon updates to national guidance.  
Date Review: Annually or upon updates to national guidance.

Date: Sept 2025