



# **EXCLUSIONS**

# **POLICY**

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**Date of Policy** **September 2025**

**Review Date** **September 2026**

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## Exclusion Policy

(to be read in conjunction with our behaviour & relationships policy)

We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment where every pupil is valued. We recognise that exclusion can have a significant impact on pupils and is therefore used only as a last resort.

### **Our approach to exclusion is guided by our core values:**

**Belong** – We work to ensure pupils feel accepted and supported within our school community, even when difficulties arise.

**Commit** – We are committed to early intervention, restorative approaches and close partnership with families and professionals to reduce the need for exclusion wherever possible.

**Thrive** – By focusing on understanding, support and reintegration, we enable pupils to rebuild relationships, develop self-regulation and continue to make progress.

Any decision to exclude is lawful, proportionate and taken in line with statutory guidance, with the safety, wellbeing and long-term outcomes of the pupil at the centre of all decision-making.

At Turning Point Academy aim to provide a positive, inclusive learning environment in which all children are able to be successful.

At times, children may exhibit extremes of behaviour in a variety of situations. We make every endeavour to meet the needs of individuals, but we also recognise our responsibility for the welfare of all our children and staff.

A decision to exclude a pupil, either internally, under suspension, or permanently is seen as a last resort by the school. The physical and emotional health of our children and staff is our primary concern, and we therefore accept, that in some serious situations, exclusion may be necessary, if all other strategies have been exhausted.

It is our policy to refer to the Department for Education Guidance: **Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England** Statutory guidance for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion (updated August 2024). This guidance can be viewed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>

We refer to the Exclusions Guidance for the local authority areas our pupils reside in, and use the relevant notification forms for the relevant authority.

### **Internal exclusion**

An 'internal exclusion' is when a pupil is withdrawn from class for a finite period and supervised – whilst continuing school work - in another part of the school, due to either a step on the child's behaviour plan, or in response to serious inappropriate behaviours. The length of the internal exclusion will be appropriate in proportion to the behaviour. Parents/carers will be informed if their child is to be placed in an internal exclusion.

If a child does not follow instructions or remain in the part of the school allocated, a decision will be made regarding the next appropriate action. During an internal exclusion, the child will have access to the toilet facilities, drinking water and their snacks/lunch. They will also have supervised movement breaks.

## **Suspensions (Fixed term exclusions)**

A suspension is a temporary / fixed term exclusion when a child is suspended from school and must remain home for a fixed amount of time. This is only used as a last resort and/or for serious inappropriate behaviours where the child's behaviour was seriously detrimental to the safety, welfare and/or education of others (including staff) and themselves. The suspension will have a set amount of days as an appropriate level of consequence in proportion to the behaviour.

It is important to minimise the disruption that suspension can cause to an excluded pupil's education. Whilst the statutory duty on the school or local authorities is to provide full-time education from the sixth day of a suspension, there is an obvious benefit in starting this provision as soon as possible. Where it is not possible, or not appropriate, to arrange alternative provision during the first five school days of a suspension, the school will take reasonable steps to set and mark work for the pupil. Work that is provided will be accessible and achievable by the pupil outside school.

## **Penalty notice relating to exclusions**

Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on parents to ensure that their child is not in a public place without justifiable cause during school hours when they are suspended from school. This duty applies to the first five days of each exclusion. Failure to do so will render the parent liable to a Penalty Notice. The amount payable is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the Penalty Notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. If the Penalty Notice is not paid, the recipient will be prosecuted for the offence under Section 103. Alternative education provision will be made from the sixth day of any suspension and failure to attend such provision without good reason will be treated as unauthorised absence.

## **Re-integration meeting**

Re-integration meetings will take place if a child has a fixed-term suspension for two or more days. At this meeting the behaviour leading to suspension will be discussed and targets will be set for improvement. Additional support around behaviour will also be discussed.

## **Permanent exclusion**

A permanent exclusion is when a child is permanently excluded from school and not allowed to return. This is a very serious decision and the Principal will consult with senior leaders the Trustees of the school as soon as possible in such a case.

## **Notice of Placement**

It may be necessary to give sufficient notice to a local authority to end a child's placement at our school. In doing so we will carefully consider any planning that is necessary to find your child a new school placement. Notice of placement will only be considered where it is deemed that the school is unable to meet a child's needs.

## **Procedure for appeal**

If parents wish to appeal the decision to suspend / exclude, the matter will be referred to the Trustees who will convene an exclusions panel to deal with the appeal.