

Exclusion Policy



Legislation and Guidance that inform this document

- School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012
- Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England (2015)

The above do not apply directly to independent schools, but it is essential that Red Balloon staff who manage referrals are cognisant of legal requirements that apply to schools, academies, and referral units and of the responsibilities given to local authorities.

Other Red Balloon policies to be read in conjunction with this one

- Behaviour for Learning
- Admissions
- Use of Reasonable Force
- Complaints... should any parent /carer feel that their child has been unfairly treated, they should refer to the complaints policy for guidance on the appropriate action to take.

Responsibility for Implementation

Headteachers are responsible for ensuring that this policy impacts appropriately upon practice.

Statement of intent:

Red Balloon aims to provide supportive learning communities that enable young people to re-engage with education. Those communities must support all students in their development. In any case where an individual persistently chooses to fail to meet their own responsibility to the community by ignoring / abusing the rights of other members or another member, then, logically, they may not remain within the community. Exclusion may be the chosen response under such circumstance.

Procedures to be followed

Each centre will seek advice from its referring authorities as to their procedure for recording and monitoring exclusions (fixed term or permanent). Should a centre apply a fixed term exclusion, the headteacher will ensure that the appropriate procedure is followed.

A centre will only use fixed term exclusion where staff have failed to enable a young person to modify their behaviour and that behaviour impacts unacceptably upon the rights of other members of the community. The purpose of such an exclusion would be twofold:

- to ensure the rights of all members of the community are upheld;
- to allow time to set up a meeting involving parents, commissioning agents and other involved agencies - at that meeting a clear plan will be set to ensure that all rights are upheld.

Should the commissioning agent or the student feel that continued attendance would leave other members of the community at discernible risk, ie the 'excluded' student is unable or unwilling to commit to maintaining the rights of others, then the placement may be terminated.

Red Balloon would only apply permanent exclusion procedures if the student, their parents and the commissioning agent wished to continue placement, but the headteacher judged that the rights (to learn, to be safe emotionally and physically and to be treated with respect) of a member or members of the community would be placed in jeopardy by the continued attendance of the student.

All days lost to exclusion will be recorded and communicated to the appropriate authority.

Should a parent feel aggrieved that a student has been unfairly denied access to a place at Red Balloon, they should submit a complaint in line with the Red Balloon Complaints Policy.

Policy updated by Bob Sproson, Director of Education, September 2019 - for annual review

