



Policy document control box	
Policy title	<b>Exclusion Policy</b>
Policy owner (including job title)	Heather Jolly (Head of Centre)
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Signed by Headteacher	<i>H Jolly</i>
Date signed	4/07/2021
Signed by Chair of Trustees	<i>D Kelly</i>
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## **1. Purpose**

This policy enshrines that 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 circumstances.

## **2. Scope**

The Head of Centre is responsible for ensuring that this policy impacts appropriately upon practice.

## **3. Policy statement, provision and safeguards**

RBNch will seek advice from its referring authorities as to their procedure for recording and monitoring exclusions (fixed term or permanent). Should RBNch apply a fixed term exclusion, the Head of Centre 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, i.e. the 'excluded' student is unable or unwilling to commit to maintaining the rights of others, then the placement may be terminated.

RBNch takes time with the referral process to gain as much information as possible about the young person in order to feel confident that we would be able to meet needs, both social and emotional and academic. With this in mind, the likelihood of a placement breaking down is unlikely, but will be considered if the safety of the young person, their peers or staff is compromised. Before an end of placement is considered we will use all resources available to try to resolve the situation, such as a reduced timetable, working one to one, sourcing a part time placement with another provision, such as St Edmunds.

If all resources become exhausted then there may come a time when we are not the right provision for the young person. This decision is never taken lightly, and we will always consult with the EHCP coordinator and parents/carers before making a final decision.

An emergency EHCP review will be held which will provide the opportunity for the child, their parents/carers, school, and the Local Authority to have their voices heard. After this, if the placement is considered no longer appropriate because it cannot meet the young person's needs, the school will give 28 days' notice and work with the EHCP coordinator to find another placement.

Red Balloon would only apply permanent exclusion procedures if the student, their parents and the commissioning agent wished to continue placement, but the Head of Centre 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 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.*

#### **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.