



# **ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE**

## **EXCLUSIONS POLICY**

## **Introduction**

St Joseph's College endeavours to ensure that exclusion procedures conform with statutory guidance set forth by the Department for Education (DfE) in 2012 and updated in September 2017.

## **Exclusions**

Fixed term exclusions are used if a student has seriously or persistently broken school policy, or where allowing them to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of themselves or others in the school. Work is set on various online platforms for students to complete during their exclusion. Exclusions data is monitored carefully for patterns and trends.

Fixed period exclusions should not exceed 45 school days in a single academic year. Before a decision is made about an exclusion, incidents are fully investigated and, where possible, the student is given an opportunity to give their view of the concerns.

Students are readmitted following a formal meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team and pastoral staff, at which the possibility of additional or alternative support will be discussed. Parents/carers are informed of the exclusion by phone call on the day the decision is made, and the details are then confirmed in writing.

Where an excluded student has Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) or is on the SEND register, it must be demonstrated that the College has regard for the SEND Code of Practice and has provided support to help meet the student's needs. Any intervention strategies should be discussed with and involve the student's parents.

Governors may meet with students and parents/carers who are at risk of permanent exclusion. Parents/carers may also request the opportunity to make representations to Governors. Permanent exclusions are used as a last resort and in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy and where allowing the student to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of themselves or others in the school.

The Governors' Discipline Panel must meet to consider a permanent exclusion within 15 school days of being notified by the School. If Governors uphold the Headteacher's decision to permanently exclude a student, parents/carers can ask the school to arrange an Independent Review Panel.

## **Searching, screening and confiscation**

Staff have the power to search students for any item with the student's consent.

Staff also have the right to search students without consent where they suspect they have prohibited

items such as knives, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco and cigarette papers, E-cigarettes and shisha pens, fireworks, pornographic images, or any items that can be used to commit an offence, or cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student).

Staff may lawfully search electronic devices, without consent or parental permission, if there is a suspicion that the student has a device prohibited by school rules, or the staff member has good reason to suspect the device may be used to cause harm, disrupt teaching, break school rules, commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage property.

If there is a legitimate reason for a student to be searched and they refuse, the school will regard this as defiance and can apply an appropriate punishment as set out in the school's behaviour policy. All prohibited goods found on the student can then be confiscated. While any member of staff can perform a search it is recommended that this be carried out by a Head of Year or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

**Date of last  
review:**

**Date of next  
review:**