



## Oaklands School Exclusions Policy January 2026

Last Reviewed: January 2026  
Next Review Date: January 2027  
Reviewed by: Mairead Standring

### Introduction

This policy should be read with the school behaviour policy, Keeping Children Safe in Education, Health and Safety policy and DFE guidance '*Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement*'.

Oaklands is a special school providing education for young people whose learning difficulties are severe. Many of our young people display challenging behaviour in line with their difficulty in social understanding, communication skills and ability to regulate their own behaviour. All challenging behaviour needs risk assessing because of the significant risk to the safety of themselves, their peers and the staff working with them.

Oaklands School is committed to providing education to young people and to supporting them to manage their own behaviour. Oaklands is responsible and committed to providing a safe environment for pupils and as an employer is responsible for providing a safe working environment for staff. Exclusion will only be used as a last resort where the situation in school is not safe on either a temporary or a permanent basis.

Permanent exclusion is a last resort, before such a decision were reached Oaklands staff will always work with the young person's Local Authority and parents to consider whether the allocation of additional resources and support or an alternate placement could avoid exclusion.

### Circumstances where exclusion or suspension is unlikely to be the outcome

- One off incident that could not have been predicted for which there is not currently a plan (unless so severe that reintegration is not possible)
- Unusual incident which is uncharacteristic for the young person for instance because they are unwell
- Incident in which the identified strategies for the situation were not implemented or in place
- Damage to property, unless the damage makes the room or building temporarily unsafe

- Placement identified as inappropriate because educational needs are not met. *In this circumstance the annual review process would be used.*
- Undesired behaviours which were the result of retaliation to injury by another student

#### Reasons for which a fixed term exclusion or suspension may be required

- Following an incident where the environment requires significant repair or reorganisation as a result of the incident in order to safely re-integrate the young person
- Following an incident where previous strategies have not been effective to enable re-evaluation and design of new strategies
- Following an incident in which any person has been hurt or have a minor injury, despite identified strategies fully in place, to enable debrief recovery and planning for re-integration
- Following an incident in order to obtain advice and support from external agencies if such advice can be provided within a reasonable length of time.
- Following an incident to enable additional or alternate staff to be secured

#### Reasons for which a permanent exclusion may be required

- All sources of support have been exhausted and strategies fully implemented to school's capacity without a positive effect, behaviour remains unsafe
- Serious incident involving significant injury to any person
- The behaviour risk assessment indicates there are no control strategies, which can be used to reduce a level of risk from substantial, or the level of risk is assessed as intolerable

#### Processes to be used if it is necessary to exclude or suspend a pupil

If an exclusion or suspension is necessary parents will be informed of the reasons for the exclusion, the length of the exclusion or whether the exclusion is permanent and their right to appeal to the Governors exclusion panel. Where an exclusion is necessary the school will also inform the Governing Body, Local Authority exclusions officer and, if the young person has a social worker they will also be informed.

It should be noted that suspension should not exceed 45 days in any school year.

Where an exclusion has been necessary parents will be informed of arrangements for education during any period until an alternate placement is identified by the relevant Local Authority.

The Governors exclusion panel will meet within 15 days whenever a permanent exclusion is made or whenever circumstances dictate that a temporary exclusion is for more than 15 days in any term. In considering exclusions, the Governing Body will consider both the excluded young person's interests and also the interests of the other young people in the school and of the people working in the school. They may decide to either reinstate the young person or to decline to do so.

Where a permanent exclusion has been necessary the Local Authority may need to review the EHCP with a view to identifying an alternate placement. Oaklands will provide any information needed to support this process.

The Governing Body is aware that parents might apply for an independent review panel to take place and will follow Government guidance were this ever to be the case.