

Where can I read more about exclusions?

Schools exclusions must follow the government guidance. Exclusion from maintained schools/academies and pupil referral units in England www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/exclusion

What can I do if I have concerns about my child being excluded?

Talk to someone at the school such as a tutor or Head of Year. They will always discuss your concerns. If your child has special educational needs, the school's Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) can advise on additional support and ways to assess your child's needs drawing on the advice of outside agencies where appropriate.

The Education Performance and Inclusion Team in Gloucestershire provide advice on exclusion procedures, preventative measures and other relevant issues.

Please see telephone numbers overleaf.

SENDIASS Gloucestershire is a free service offering information, advice and support to parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs.

My child has been excluded from school for short periods and is at risk of permanent exclusion. Can this be prevented?

If the school has concerns about your child's behaviour it should try to identify whether there are any reasons behind this and intervene early in order to reduce the need for further exclusion.

The school should consider a Early Help assessment using the Graduated Pathway that goes beyond a child's educational needs. This might result in a Pastoral Support Plan or an individual behaviour plan e.g. MP/MP+.

Sources of help and information

Education Performance and Inclusion Team

01452 427360

Coram Children's Legal Centre

Provide free legal advice and information to parents on education matters, including exclusions. They can be contacted on 0345 0345 4345 or on http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/index.php?page=education_legal_practice.

ACE education

Can be contacted on 0300 0115 142 and also <http://www.ace-ed.org.uk/>.

The National Autistic Society (Schools Exclusion Service (England))

Can be contacted on 0808 800 4002 or through schoolexclusions@nas.org.uk.

Independent Parental Special Education Advice

<http://www.ipsea.org.uk/>

SENDIASS Gloucestershire (supports parents/carers of children with special educational needs)

2nd Floor Messenger House
35 St Michael's Square Gloucester
GL1 1HX

Tel: 01452 389344/389345 or

0800 158 3603 – mobile users may be charged

Youth Support Team

(supports young people aged 10-19 yrs old)

General Enquiries

01452 426900

Info.glos@prospects.co.uk

www.whatnowglos.co.uk



Exclusion from school

Information for Parents and carers September 2017

Exclusion from school

Exclusion can be a worrying, upsetting and difficult time for you and your child. This leaflet will explain exclusions and the support that is available to you.

What does exclusion mean?

Exclusion is used by the school when a pupil has breached the school's behaviour policy. In all exclusions, the pupil is not allowed onto the school site for the period of the exclusion unless specific permission has been given by the school.

There are two types of exclusion:

Fixed period exclusion – a specified number of days or lunchtimes when a pupil is not allowed into school.

Permanent exclusion – when the headteacher has decided that a pupil should not continue at the school and that allowing the pupil to remain would harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.

Being informed about the exclusion

In all cases when your child has been excluded, you will be informed by the school in writing. This letter provides key information including:

- the length of exclusion
- the reason for the exclusion
- parents' responsibility during the exclusion
- the arrangements made by the school to provide work for during the first five days of an exclusion
- the date your child should return to school (unless excluded permanently)
- parents' right to appeal to the governing board
- contact details of those professionals who can provide you with impartial advice and guidance on the exclusion process)

For permanent exclusion, and exclusions of 15 days or more in one term, this letter will also include details of the governors' meeting that has to be held to review the headteacher's decision to exclude your child.

What about my child's education?

Government guidance says that your child's school must provide school work, and arrange for it to be marked, for the first five days of an exclusion from school.

If your child is excluded for more than five days, or permanently excluded, the government guidance states that full-time education must be provided from the sixth day. The school will inform you in writing of these arrangements.

Can my child go out during the exclusions?

It is important that your child stays at home and is not in any public place during school hours for the first five days of the exclusion. If they are found in a public place without good reason, you may be issued with a notice and a fine of £60. Failure to pay within 28 days will mean the fine increases to £120. Continued failure to pay could result in you appearing before a court.

Can the exclusion be challenged?

Yes, if you feel that the exclusion was unfair by making representations to governors. Details of this will be in the exclusion letter.

How do I challenge the exclusion?

In all exclusions you have the right to put your case in writing to the school governors. In every case the governors must consider your written points. How the governors respond to your letter depends on the length of the exclusion period.

For exclusions of 5 days or less

The governors do not have to meet with you but may agree to a meeting if you request it.

For exclusions of between 5½ and 15 days

The governors must meet to review the exclusion and invite you to attend this meeting if you request it.

For exclusions over 15 days, including permanent exclusions

The governors automatically review the exclusion. The governors must invite you to the meeting. If you wish, your child and a friend of yours can attend this meeting with you. This meeting must be held within the first 15 school days following the exclusion.

What happens at the governors' meetings?

Governors take their responsibility very seriously when reviewing exclusions.

They invite the headteacher to give the reasons for the exclusion.

They may ask the headteacher to explain the support that the school have offered to your child in order to avoid exclusion.

They will also give you an opportunity to give your view about the exclusion, and to ask questions.

They can then make one of two decisions

1. To uphold the headteacher's decision, or
2. To overturn the headteacher's decision.

If the governors overturn the exclusion they will place a copy of their findings on your child's school report if the exclusion was for 5 days or less. In all other exclusions the governors can direct that your child returns to school.

If your child has been excluded permanently, and this decision was upheld by the school governors, you have a right to ask for the decision to be reviewed by an independent review panel

You will be given details about this in the governors' letter informing you of their decision following a permanent exclusion.