

## Advice and Guidance for Suspensions

My child has been suspended - but what does this mean and what do I need to do about this?

### What does the law say?

This government supports headteachers in using suspensions and permanent exclusions as sanctions to manage student behaviour and create a calm, safe and supportive environment which is safe and free from disruption and fear of bullying.

Schools can suspend a student for a specific period, known as a fixed-term suspension, up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year. Suspensions can be for a part of a day or multiple periods, but the total cannot exceed the 45-day limit. A suspension is for a disciplinary reason and the headteacher must consider any contributing factors to the behaviour, like home circumstances or bullying.

#### Additional information

- Only the headteacher of a school can suspend a pupil on disciplinary grounds. The policy on this must be published on the school's website.
- When Headteachers suspend a pupil, they must, without delay, notify the child's parent or carer and the local authority. If a pupil has a Social Worker or if a pupil is a Child in Care, the Headteacher must immediately notify the Social Worker and the Virtual School Headteacher.
- A Headteacher can issue a suspension in response to a child's behaviour that breaks the rules, in or outside of school.
- Pupils with special educational needs (SEN) or a disability can be suspended from school. The law does not prevent a child from receiving a sanction for misbehaviour, but schools do have a legal duty, under the Equality Act 2010, not to discriminate against children because of a disability. Schools are not allowed to suspend a pupil because they have a disability or additional needs the school cannot meet.
- Schools must set & mark work for the first five school days of a suspension.
- Schools cannot simply send a child home for 'cooling off'. This is an unlawful exclusion.
- Following a school suspension, a reintegration meeting is crucial for a smooth return to school. It's a chance for the school, the pupil and their parent or carer to collaborate on strategies to prevent future suspensions & ensure the pupil's successful return to learning & the school community.

### Key questions you may want to consider:

- What does being suspended from school mean exactly?
- Can I appeal the school's decision to suspend my child?
- Was my child asked why they behaved in such a manner?
- What work will school provide for the period of my child's suspension?
- Can I ask for the specific details about the incident that led to the suspension?
- How long is my child suspended for?
- During the period of suspension, can my child be out and about in the community?
- Will my child's suspension go on his school record?
- Are there any support services that can support my child through this?
- Was my child's special educational needs (SEN) taken into account when a suspension was being considered?
- When will my child's reintegration meeting be held?
- When my child returns to school & to reduce the likelihood of another suspension, how will my child be supported to manage their behaviour?

For further information, please use the QR code to visit our Peterborough Virtual School website



### Key websites for further advice and guidance

- [Suspension and permanent exclusion guidance](#)
- [A guide for parents on school behaviour and exclusion - GOV.UK](#)
- [Peterborough Information Network | SEND Information Advice and Support Service \(SENDIASS\)](#)
- [School Exclusions Hub](#)