

Listening session on school exclusions and managed moves

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This session

We want to hear from you and get your thoughts and experiences of school exclusion and managed moves. The information you give us will be treated anonymously and will be used to inform future Government work.

	Agenda item
5 mins	Welcome and introductions
10 mins	Short presentation on the exclusions process
40 mins	Feedback from yourselves
5 mins	Wrap up



What is an exclusion?

- The exclusion of a pupil must be lawful, reasonable and fair.
- The excluding body must take account of the Equality Act 2010.
- 'Informal' or 'unofficial' exclusions (such as sending a pupil home to 'cool off' are unlawful.

Fixed-Period (Suspension)

- For a short term, e.g half day or 5 school days.
- A pupil may be excluded for one or more fixed periods, up to a maximum of 45 school days in an academic year.

Permanent (Expulsion)

- Must be in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy and where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.



What happens when a child is excluded from school?

- Only a head teacher can make the decision to exclude the child.
- They must, without delay, inform the parents of the period of exclusion and the reason(s) for it, and other information including how representations could be made and the details of any alternative provision.
- The governing board can, and in the case of a longer or permanent exclusion, must, review whether the pupil should be reinstated. They can then decline to reinstate the pupil or direct the reinstatement of the pupil.

Fixed period exclusion:

- If the exclusion is for more than 5 days, then the governing body must arrange full-time education elsewhere.

Permanent exclusion:

- For permanent exclusions, the local authority must arrange suitable full-time education no later than the sixth school day of the exclusion.



What is a managed move?

There is no legal definition of a 'managed move'. The statutory exclusions guidance states:

“A school can also transfer a pupil to another school – a process called a ‘managed move’ - if they have the agreement of everyone involved, including the parents and the admission authority for the new school. Schools cannot force a parent to remove their child permanently from the school or to keep their child out of school for any period of time without formally excluding. The threat of exclusion must never be used to influence parents to remove their child from the school.”

Managed moves can be used to give pupils a fresh start through a permanent move to a local school or to provide short-term support at another school or Alternative Provision setting.



Questions on exclusions and managed moves

- Have you encountered any challenges whilst referring to the statutory guidance?
- Currently, a pupil may be excluded for one or more fixed periods (up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year), or permanently. Do you think in the current climate the 45 day limit should be reviewed and why?
- ⑧ What can be done better to support children and young people who are at risk of exclusion from school?
- What do you think are the aims of a managed moves and do you have any experience with a managed move?
- What do you think are the benefits of a managed move?
- What difficulties do you think a pupil may experience through a managed move and how can we improve this process?
- Do you have any other thoughts you would like to share with us?



Where parent/carers can get free advice on exclusion matters

- **Coram's Child Law Advice service** can be accessed through their website <https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/school-exclusion/> or contacted on 0300 330 5485 (Monday to Friday, 8am – 6pm).
- **ACE education** run a limited service and can be reached on 0300 0115 142 on Monday to Wednesday from 10am to 1pm during term time. Information can be found on the website: <http://www.ace-ed.org.uk/>.
- **Independent Parental Special Education Advice** (known as **IPSEA** – www.ipsea.org.uk) [offer free and independent information, advice and support](#) to help get the right education for children and young people with all kinds of special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities. I
- **Autism Education Trust** (AET), via the National Autistic Society (NAS) operates a helpline and advice service for parents and carers whose child is at risk or has been excluded. Contact 0207 903 3660. Website: autismeducationtrust.org.uk.

Other sources of information for parents include:

- The Department's guidance to schools on exclusion, which is available on the GOV UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>;
- Temporary changes to the school exclusion process during the coronavirus outbreak (Covid-19): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion/changes-to-the-school-exclusion-process-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>
- 'School discipline and exclusion' <https://www.gov.uk/school-discipline-exclusions/exclusions>

