

Our Lady's Catholic College
Exclusion Policy
(Revised September 2011)

The governors of Our Lady's Catholic College are committed to the welfare of all our pupils and the inclusive ethos of our school. In view of this the school spends a considerable amount of resource in continually re-evaluating and refining its practice for encouraging and rewarding positive behaviour in reviewing its disciplinary policy and also in developing a provision for including students who have to be withdrawn temporarily from normal class or who have incurred a serious sanction. The governors have taken the decision however, that in some circumstances in order to protect the welfare and / or education of the remaining students and staff there is no alternative other than to exclude a student.

The Decision to Exclude

Only the Headteacher can take the decision to exclude, this power is delegated to her deputy in the event of the Headteacher's absence.

Before making this decision the Headteacher will ensure a proper investigation has taken place and all relevant evidence has been considered including that of the pupil concerned. Having considered all these matters the Headteacher will make a decision based on probability after having had regard for current DfE guidance.

In some exceptional cases where there is a serious risk of safety, a student may be excluded whilst investigation takes place.

Reasons for Exclusion

There are many reasons why exclusion can become the only way forward. Most reasons can be classified into one of two types:-

- A disciplinary offence of such seriousness that a lesser sanction is either unsuitable or unsafe in line with the school behaviour policy.
- In cases where all other remedial steps have been exhausted including counselling and inclusive sanctions.

It is possible that the incident leading to exclusion has taken place outside school. This is most likely when the student's actions or alleged actions suggest that his/her presence in school would constitute an unacceptable risk to themselves or other members of the school community.

Types of Exclusion

Exclusions can be either Fixed Term, Interim (during an investigation for example) or Permanent. Fixed Term exclusions are limited to 45 school days in any one school year for any individual pupil.

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Various procedures apply dependent on the type and length of exclusions. These cover communication with parents, provision for continuation of pupil's education, meetings of the governing body to review the Headteacher's decisions and appeals processes. Further details and advice for parents can be found on the website:-
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/behaviour/exclusion/a0076530/exclusion-information-for-parents>

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