

School exclusions

Any decision to exclude a pupil from school must be 'lawful, reasonable and fair'.

If you think the decision is not lawful, reasonable or fair, you can appeal and ask the school to reconsider the exclusion.

It is unlawful for a school to treat a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller pupil less favourably in comparison to other pupils with the same sort of behaviour. Schools should consider what extra support might be needed to reduce the risk of exclusion among GRT pupils.

TEMPORARY EXCLUSION

A pupil may be suspended from school for one or more fixed periods (up to a max of 45 days in one single school year). At the end of the fixed period, the pupil will go back to the same school.

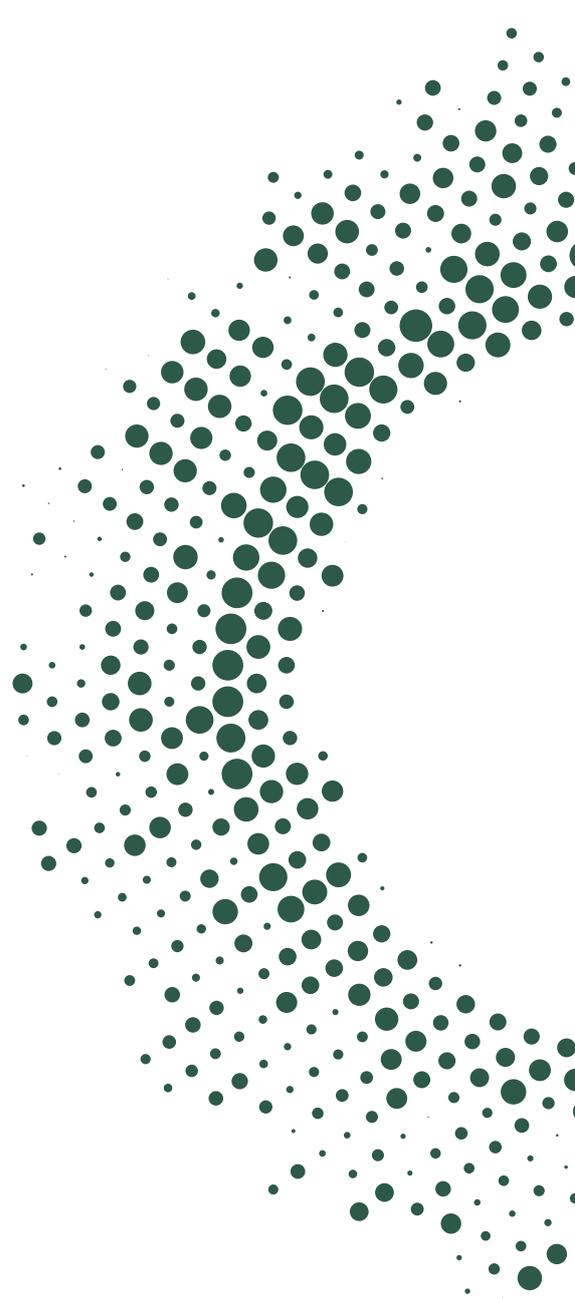
For the first 5 days of a fixed-period exclusion, the school must send your child work to do at home. After the 6th day of any exclusion your local council has to find a place at a different school for your child. At the end of the fixed-period, the child will return to its own school.

Schools are not allowed to send pupils home 'to cool off' - this must be treated as exclusion. Every time your child is sent out of school, the school must tell you in writing why and for how long.

If your child is getting in a lot of trouble at school, the school should try to find out why and if there is something that your child is finding hard to do. Often if pupils are behaving badly at school it is because there is something that they need help with.

Schools should speak to parents or carers and to other services to find out how they can support pupils instead of giving them lots of exclusions.

If you think that your child needs more support to learn, you should speak to their school about it. All schools have a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) who can help you.



PERMANENT EXCLUSION/ EXPULSION

Head teachers can only permanently exclude your child if:

- s/he has broken a serious school rule, or broken rules many times, and
- letting your child stay would seriously harm her/his education or safety, or the education or safety of others in the school.

Permanent exclusion should only be used as a last resort.



The information in this information guide refers to the law in England & Wales. It summarises the main points and is intended for guidance only. While every effort is made to ensure it is correct at time of publication it should not be used as a substitute for legal advice or for individual advice about your case. If you have any specific questions about any legal matter you should consult a solicitor.

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TM's Equality and Social Justice Unit, access to justice series, information guide