

Education Exclusion Policy

Date updated:	November 2018
Lead person(s):	Head of Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Head of Education
Review date:	November 2019

EXCLUSION POLICY

Sunfield does not consider “exclusion” a means of maintaining discipline.

Challenging behaviour characterises many of our young peoples’ needs and our Positive Behaviour Support Policy, together with working practices and procedures, aims to help young people express themselves without inappropriate behaviour.

A young person can usually remain at Sunfield until the end of the academic year in which they are nineteen, or may leave earlier depending on their Local Authority policy and arrangements.

Sunfield does not normally ‘exclude’ children and young people once the placement has been confirmed after the three month assessment period. We accept that children and young people with ASD go through phases of behaviour and we will normally be able to continue to support them.

Occasionally it is judged by staff teams that a student’s learning needs may be best met by a period outside of the class group.

In some cases carefully planned programmes, with the aim of reintroducing the student to the class group, can be delivered for short periods of time outside of the main school rooms. These rooms may be on house, in separate individual school rooms or rooms adjacent to classes. There will be a planned phased return to group learning planned by Sunfield’s Psychologist, class teacher and any treating therapists, as appropriate. All such programmes are overseen by the Psychology and Therapy Department. Authorities and families are also consulted on such a decision.

Sometimes (especially in the case of a day student at Sunfield) a fixed term exclusion may be deemed to be the most appropriate. In this case Sunfield will follow DfE guidance (September 2017).

“Fixed Term Exclusion

- This is for a set period; it cannot be open-ended
- Pupils can be excluded for up to 45 days in a school year
- Work will be set for the first five days of an exclusion (alternative education arrangements to be made for any exclusion over 5 days)
- Parents/carers will be immediately notified of the decision to exclude, and will also be provided (in writing) with the reasons for the exclusion, and the period of exclusion
- Sunfield to arrange a re-integration interview which parents/carers are expected to attend.”

In the unusual case where a young person’s behaviour poses too high a risk to other children and to staff Sunfield will support the placement for as long as is possible to allow behaviour strategies to be tried. If these are not successful we will try to maintain the placement until a new placement can be found. In these cases Sunfield’s “High Alert” agenda item at SLT meetings ensure that monitoring of risk is frequent and comprehensive.

Placing authorities are alerted as early as possible when concerns are rising and Sunfield seeks to work in partnership to avoid precipitate ending of contracts.

However, our 'duty of care' means that we cannot maintain the placement indefinitely and on very rare occasions it may become necessary to ask for a child or young person to be immediately removed.