

Permanent exclusion from Hillingdon schools advice for parents and carers

It is important your child remains in education following a permanent exclusion.



Permanent exclusions

We understand that this may be a very unsettling time for yourselves and you may have some questions about what this permanent exclusion means for your child.

Permanent exclusion should usually only be used as a 'last resort' when there is clear evidence to suggest a wide range of other strategies and interventions have been tried. It is an acknowledgement by the school that they have exhausted **all** available options for any child.

The aim of the council's School Placement and Admissions team is to support your child through the decision to permanently exclude, so that they can continue with their education.

Schools have a statutory duty not to discriminate against pupils based on disability or race. All schools should consider the fair treatment of pupils from groups who are vulnerable to exclusion, in particular young people with SEN - special educational needs.

There may be exceptional circumstances where the headteacher has judged it is appropriate to permanently exclude your child for a first or 'one-off' offence. These might include:

- serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff
- sexual abuse or assault
- supplying an illegal substance
- carrying an offensive weapon or prohibited item, with intent to harm.

Further information on permanent and fixed-term exclusions can be accessed on the council's website at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/permanent-exclusions.

Further to this, ACE Education can offer independent advice and information on state education in England at www.ace-ed.org.uk



Governors' review process

The governing body is responsible for reviewing the headteacher's decision to exclude your child permanently or for a long fixed-term period. Governors are to consider all the options that have been exhausted by the school and there needs to be a decision to direct re-instatement, if that is a practical option. The governing body is also responsible for considering any representations made by you of your excluded child following shorter fixed-term exclusions.

Attendees

- at least three governors nominated to conduct governors' review meetings, one of whom must act as Chair
- the pupil (if he/she wishes and their parent agrees) subject to age and understanding
- the parent (and possibly a friend or legal representative)
- the headteacher (and sometimes another member of school staff)
- the local authority (in the case of maintained schools or alternative provisions) and with the governing board's consent
- the clerk to the governors'.

Independent review panel

If you wish to challenge the decision of the governors, you may request an independent hearing. Details of how to do this and relevant timescales will have been included in the governors' letter to parents following the governors' review meeting. Requests for review received after the deadline cannot be accepted.

The independent review panel may:

- uphold the decision to exclude
- recommend that the governing body reconsiders its decision
- quash the decision and direct the governing body to reconsider this exclusion.

If the permanent exclusion is upheld, and you do not request an independent review, then the young person will continue roll at an alternative provision (likely to be The Skills Hub if they are a Hillingdon resident).

Further advice

Any parents that are going through a governors' review process can seek further advice from:

The School Placement and Admissions team can provide further information if you require it, regarding the permanent exclusion. Contact the Vulnerable Learner Support Manager by calling 01895 558670 or emailing admissions@hillingdon.gov.uk.

If your child has a special educational need or disability, you can seek advice from SENDIASS by calling 01895 277001.

Further information may be accessed via the Department for Education (DfE) guidance on exclusions: www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion.

Communities Empowerment Network, which aims to advise, support and represent pupils excluded from school, and support parents to play an empowered role of the successful education and progress of their children by visiting www.cenlive.org or calling 020 7733 0297.

Young people can also seek further advice from 'just for kids law' who help children and young people overcome difficulties they may face including school exclusion and a wide variety of other ongoing barriers.

Visit www.justforkidslaw.org.uk, call 020 3174 2279 or email info@justforkidslaw.org.

Further legal advice can be provided from Coram Children's Legal Centre, which specialises in law and policy affecting children and young people. Coram promotes and protects the rights of children in the UK and internationally, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Visit www.coram.org.uk or call 020 7520 0300.

If your child has received a permanent exclusion for substance misuse, you can seek support from National Drugs Helpline: FRANK. Visit www.talktofrank.com or access our local services SORTED by visiting www.hillingdon.gov.uk/substancemisuse.

SORTED is a free confidential Service for 11 to 25-year-olds in Hillingdon who are experiencing a drug or alcohol-related problems. Call 01895 250721.