

My Child is at Risk of Suspension – What does this mean?

Within the school community from time to time, there are children who are unable to learn to moderate their behaviour, co-regulate and/or self-regulate in line with their peers. This may present as

- Displays of extreme anger, anxiety and/or distress, often accompanied by shouting, crying and/or physical violence which are frequent and/or out of balance with any trigger
- Inability to co-regulate (calm down with support) or self-regulate despite prolonged intervention
- Inability or refusal to follow instruction from an adult, even when that adult is trying to keep them safe
- Any or all of the above which risks harm to self and/or others, and which disrupts the learning experience for others

As a parent you will already be aware if there have been one or more incidents of such behaviour from your child, and there will be interventions in place to support your child which you are aware of. This may include working in a small group, receiving nurture, having periods of 1:1 support, limiting the amount of time spent in the whole class environment or otherwise trying to manage the triggers for dysregulation. At the same time your child will be being supported to manage their own regulation.

These interventions will be measured for impact after a period, usually 6 weeks. We will be looking for a sustained change in behaviour, and a sustained reduction in incidents such as those listed above. If there has been no measurable improvement, the school may inform you that your child is at risk of suspension. Usually this will be an internal suspension in the first instance (working away from the class, or missing a playtime/lunchtime). You will be notified of an internal suspension and this places your child at risk of fixed term suspension. Again, should there be no reduction in incidents, your child may be suspended externally. The length of that suspension can range from half a day to up to a week (or longer) depending upon the severity or the frequency of the incident(s) which precede it.

My child is at Risk of Permanent Exclusion – What does this Mean?

Permanent exclusion is a last resort, and is a sign that any and all interventions in place to support your child and keep them safe are not effective or effective long term and there are no more interventions to try which will be effective. Alternatively or additionally the impact of your child's dysregulation on the rest of the school community may place them at risk of harm, or their learning may be adversely impacted. The school has a legal duty to bear in mind the role of any SEND or disability (a protected characteristic) in the dysregulation or otherwise of a child and balance this with their responsibility to meet the needs of all children within its community. If you are notified that your child is at risk of permanent exclusion we will at this stage if we have not already done so, also discuss with you the options of:

- A managed move – this can be temporary or permanent, to see if a fresh start at another school can restore regulation
- Alternative provision – this is when a child is educated offsite for a period (ranging from half a day to 5 days) per week to offer an intensive intervention.