



## St Peter's Catholic Primary School

### Policy for Suspension and Exclusion - October 2024

#### MISSION STATEMENT

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School is at the heart of a Christ-centred community where every person's uniqueness is celebrated with joy, and is truly valued. We foster caring, supportive relationships based on mutual respect and love. We embrace the different communities to which we all belong home, school and parish, as well as our local, national and global families. When we welcome the child, we welcome the family. We strive for excellence in all we do, to be the very best that we can be.

#### Overview

A pupil will only be suspended from this school as a last resort when other means of dealing with the concern (s) have been exhausted. The headteacher and the governing body will follow the statutory DfE guidance when carrying out their functions in relation to suspensions.

#### Intent

It is the intention of the governing body that wherever possible, no child should be suspended until all other reasonable strategies have been exhausted.

The governing body will support the headteacher in using suspension as a sanction where it is warranted.

This policy sets out the procedures that must be followed when a pupil is suspended or permanently excluded.

Permanent exclusion will only be used as a last resort in response to a serious breach or persistent breaches of the school's behaviour policy; and where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or of others in the school.

Suspensions will be used to prevent unacceptable behaviour from disrupting the good running of the school, and will be used to keep pupils and staff safe.

The school will work in partnership with parents and carers to try to resolve issues before reaching the stage of suspension.

The headteacher and governing body will comply with their statutory duties in relation to a pupil's SEND and (where appropriate) the provisions of any EHCP when administering the suspension and exclusion process. This will include having regard for the SEND Code of Practice.

Where school has concerns about the behaviour of a child with additional needs, a pupil with an EHCP or a cared-for child, it will, in partnership with others, consider what additional support or alternative placement may be required.

#### Implementation

Where a suspension or permanent exclusion is being considered, the headteacher and governing body will follow the DfE Statutory Guidance set out in '**School Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions.**' This document gives guidance for those with legal responsibilities in relation to suspension and permanent exclusion. In addition, school will take account of the LA's additional guidance and specialist expertise.

Any decision to suspend or exclude a pupil will be made lawfully, reasonably and fairly. The school will give particular consideration to the fair treatment of pupils from the groups identified in the DfE guidance who are vulnerable to suspension and exclusion. If suspension or exclusion is decided to be the appropriate way forward then the school will continue to endeavour to work with the pupil and with parents/ carers, and will involve them as appropriate throughout the process.

Where the school has concerns about a pupil's behaviour, we will try to identify any causal factors and will intervene early in order to reduce the need for a subsequent suspension or exclusion. In this situation, the school will consider whether a multi-agency assessment (which goes beyond the pupil's educational needs) is required.

The school will work with parents, carers and the LA to take reasonable steps to set and mark work for pupils during the first five school days of a suspension. The school will work with the LA to establish alternative provision from the sixth day.

If the headteacher suspends a pupil they will notify parents or carers of the period of the suspension/ exclusion, and the reason(s) for it. The school will also, without delay and in writing, provide parents or carers with access to the information set out in DfE guidelines. The headteacher will notify the governing body and the LA of any permanent exclusion and any suspension which would result in the pupil being suspended for a total of more than five school days (or more than ten lunchtimes) in a term; and any suspension which would result in the pupil missing a National Curriculum test.

Where it is appropriate, suspended pupils will be enabled and encouraged to participate at all stages of the suspension and exclusion process, taking into account their age and ability to understand.

Where parents or carers dispute the decision of the governing body not to reinstate a permanently excluded pupil, they can (in line with the DfE guidance) ask for this decision to be reviewed by an independent review panel.

The governing body will consider parents' representations about an exclusion in line with the requirements set out in the DfE guidance.

If the governing body is legally required to consider the reinstatement of a permanently excluded pupil, they will follow the steps set out in the DfE guidance and take account of the advice offered by the LA.

The school will work with parents or carers and the LA to devise an appropriate and bespoke strategy for reintegrating a pupil who returns to school following a suspension, and for managing their future behaviour.

### **Impact**

St. Peter's will only ever consider suspension and exclusion as a last resort. School intends that suspension will be considered only in exceptional circumstances as a last resort when all other strategies have failed to bring about the required change in a pupil's unacceptable conduct. The detailed procedures that will be applied when using this policy will be those set out in the DfE statutory guidance. These procedures will be followed at all times.

**Katherine Ryan**

**Headteacher**

**October, 2024**

**Review date: October, 2025**