

## EXCLUSIONS POLICY

### **Rationale**

NESTON HIGH SCHOOL recognises that in order to ensure a positive atmosphere based on a sense of community and shared values it may, on occasions, be necessary to exclude an individual or individuals either for a fixed period, not exceeding *forty five days* in any one academic year, or, in some circumstances, permanently.

Such exclusions should only be resorted to when the school can demonstrate with adequate evidence that all reasonable steps have been taken and/ or that the presence of the student is likely to be severely detrimental to them self, other students or staff. There may also be occasions when a short-term exclusion is appropriate because of unacceptable behaviour.

### **Purposes**

1. To maintain an environment where students can develop academically, morally and socially.
2. To maintain the highest standards of behaviour.
3. To meet statutory requirements, in particular to conform with the Department for Education, Statutory Guidance on Exclusion 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

### **Guidelines**

1. Students demonstrating anti-social behaviour should move through the hierarchy of sanctions outlined in the policy on Student Behaviour and Discipline. However, exclusion will always be considered in the case of students involved in violent behaviour.
2. Only the Head - or a Deputy in an acting capacity - may exclude.
3. Students and their parents will be given an opportunity to express their view and give their account of an incident, before a decision is made about an exclusion.
4. All exclusions must be formally notified in writing to the parents, and for fixed term exclusions with a copy to the Chair of Governors and to the LA indicating brief details of the offence, the period of exclusion, the right of parents to appeal, details of work set, and the date for re-admission. The LA and Chair of Governors should be informed of a permanent exclusion within one school day.
5. Parents will be invited into school to discuss with the Head, Deputy or Head of House the criteria by which a student may be readmitted, where possible on the first day the student returns to school.
6. In all cases parents will be informed of their right to make representations to the Governing Body (via the Clerk).
7. Support will be provided for excluded students during exclusion (e.g. by the provision of work and homework) and at re-entry to the school. In cases of fixed term exclusions, it is the responsibility of parents/carers to return work to school to be marked. For

students with special educational needs, this should be matched appropriately to their statement.

8. In cases of exclusions that are over 5 days or permanent or result in a student missing a public examination, the Discipline Committee of the Governing Body will meet within 14 school days. Such hearings will follow the procedures recommended in the LA and DfE Guidelines on Student Exclusions.
9. Where a student is given a fixed period of exclusion of a duration of 6 days or longer, the school will arrange suitable full time educational provision from and including the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the exclusion.
10. During the initial period of up to 5 school days of a fixed term exclusion, the parents/carers of the excluded student must ensure that he/she is not present in a public place during normal school hours without reasonable justification. This requirement applies whether or not the pupil is in the company of the parent(s).
11. The Governing Body's policy is that the punishment of permanent exclusion is the sanction that will be applied for violent conduct; serious physical assault; being in possession of an offensive weapon; the possession or supply of illegal drugs; concerned with the dealing of drugs or other unauthorised drugs on school premises and on a school visit, including psychoactive substances (known as 'legal highs') or if a student is found to be under the influence.

### **Conclusion**

The above policy should be read in conjunction with the Department for Education Statutory Guidance on Exclusion and the school's policies on Student Behaviour and Discipline, Anti-Bullying, Drugs, and with the LA's Guidelines on Student Exclusions.

Name of Policy	Exclusions
Name of lead member of staff	RHU
Committee & Date of Review	Liaison 4.2.15 Full Govs 3.3.15
Equality Impact Assessments	Summer 2013
Date of next planned review	2018/19