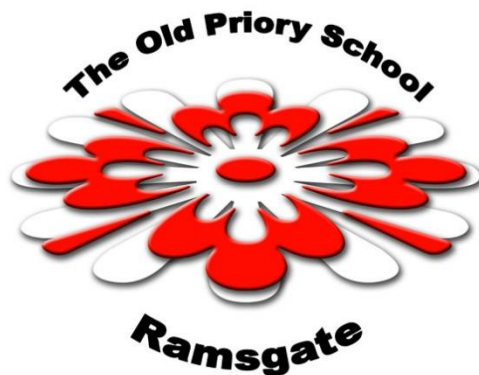


Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy

The Old Priory School



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The Old Priory School

Suspension and Exclusion Policy

1. Context

The majority of pupils at The Old Priory School have experiences which may include significant loss, separation, and trauma. This has impacted upon how they feel, how they manage their feelings, their behaviour, and social interactions. They have often experienced multiple school placements with broken down placements leaving them with a sense of rejection and poor image of schooling and education. Therefore, suspension is an action only to be taken when all alternative strategies have been exhausted.

Grounds for Suspension

Suspension will only be applied when both of the following criteria have been met:

- If allowing the pupil to remain in the school would pose a serious risk to the education or welfare of the pupil or of others.
- In response to repeated, significant serious breaches of the school's Behaviour Policy.
- It has been ascertained that an incident appears to have been provoked by discrimination.

The school accepts the responsibility to maintain discipline and good conduct to maintain an orderly learning environment, in which teaching and effective learning can take place. If the above criteria have been met, a suspension will take place after;

- All relevant facts in support of any allegations have been considered, considering the school's policy on equal opportunities. If there remains any doubt as to the pupil's culpability, the pupil will not be suspended.
- All parties have been given the opportunity to give their version of events.

All decisions on the suspension of a pupil will be made in consultation with Parents/Carers and, where applicable, the Placing Authority. Appeal against the Head Teacher/Head of Education's decision may be made in writing directly to the Head Teacher/Head of Education.

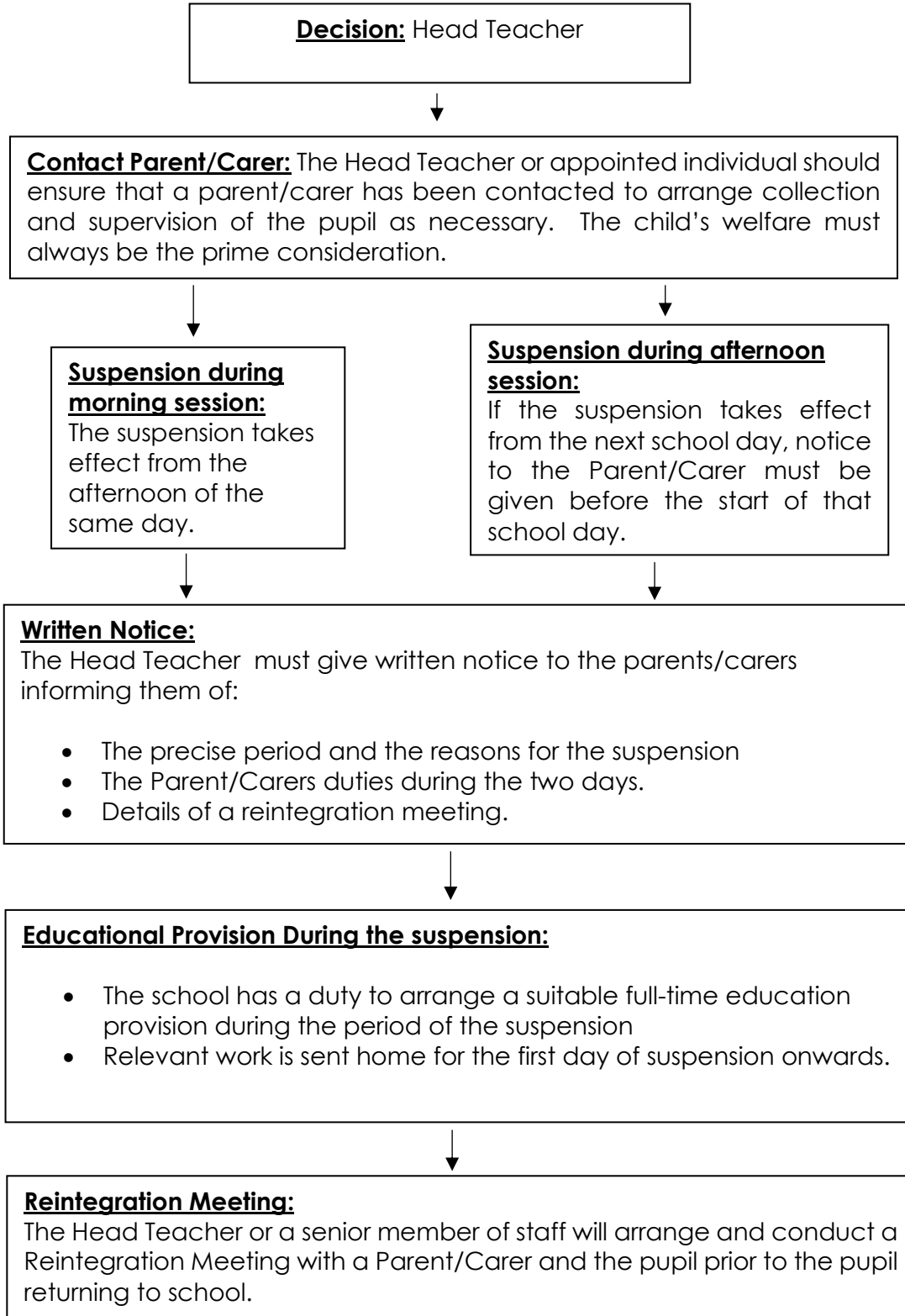
2. Legal Framework

The duration of individual suspensions will be as short as possible; however, the Head Teacher/Head of Education is legally allowed to suspend a pupil for up to 45 days within an academic year (s52 Education Act 2002). For all suspension lasting longer than one day, work will be set and sent home for completion.

3. Reintegration

Suspension is not a recourse that is used unless there has been a significant incident or risk. The Old Priory School may ask that a child is home educated for up to two days following significant incidents. After the two-day period there will be a return to school reintegration meeting with the Head Teacher, Julie Bartlett or in her absence the Deputy Head Susan Howson.

4. Flow Chart for Decision for Suspension



5. Permanent Exclusion

A permanent exclusion is when a pupil is no longer allowed to attend a school (unless the pupil is reinstated). The decision to exclude a pupil permanently should only be taken:

- 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 others such as staff or pupils in the school.

Given the background and experiences of the children in the school, permanent exclusion is to be implemented as a last resort following a discussion and meeting between the Head of Education, and the Head of ECS Safeguarding.