**BOURNEMOUTH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

**EXCLUSION POLICY**

This Policy was updated October 2018

Review Date:

Head Teacher: Mrs C Hill

**Pupil Exclusion Policy**

Bournemouth Christian School aims to offer their pupils opportunities to develop their character as well as providing a stimulating and relevant curriculum. A school has the legal right to impose reasonable sanctions on any pupil that misbehaves. These sanctions may include loss of privileges, letter home to parents or guardians, time out of class or confiscation of property. However a decision to exclude a pupil, either for a fixed period or permanently is seen as a last resort by the school. The school is responsible for communicating to pupils, parents and staff its expectations of standards of conduct. There is a range of policies and procedures are in place to promote good behaviour and appropriate conduct available to view from the website or school office. No exclusion will be initiated without first exhausting other strategies, in the case of a serious single incident, a thorough investigation or if the exclusion would put a child’s safety at risk. The investigation may be carried out by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. The DfE guidance on exclusions does not apply at independent schools.

**Aims**

This policy aims to provide the school with guidelines that can be adapted as necessary to use in situations related to exclusion and outlines some of the possible behaviours that may merit exclusion.

The Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher has the authority to exclude pupils for…

* Serious breach of the school’s rules or policies.
* Risk of harm to the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.
* Fixed term exclusion
* Supply/possession/use of controlled drugs and solvents or their paraphernalia or substances intended.
* Alcohol abuse
* Smoking
* Theft
* Bullying, including e-Bullying
* Physical assault/ threatening behaviour
* Fighting
* Racist abuse
* Inappropriate and/or sexual misconduct
* Absence without leave
* Damage to property
* Persistent disruptive behaviour
* Parental or pupil behaviour which, in the Head Teacher/ Deputy Head Teacher reasonable opinion, leads them to believe that removal of the pupil from the School is in the best interests of the School or the pupil.
* Bringing the School into disrepute

**Fixed Term Exclusion**

Exclusion for a period of time from half a day to five days for persistent or cumulative problems would be imposed only when the school had already offered and implemented a range of support and management strategies. These could include:

• Discussion with the pupil

• Mentoring

• Behaviour book

• Discussions with parents

• Target setting

• Checking on any possible provocation

• Mediation

• Counselling

• Internal exclusion

• Involvement of external agencies

**Permanent Exclusion**

A permanent exclusion is a very serious decision and the Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher will ensure that the best interests of the child are considered. As with fixed term exclusions, it will follow a range of behaviour management strategies and be seen as a last resort, or it will be in response to a very serious breach of school rules and policies or a disciplinary offence such as:

* Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff
* Possession or use of an illegal drug on school premises
* Carrying or use of an offensive weapon
* Persistent bullying
* Persistent racial harassment.

Any exclusion will usually be decided by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher. Exclusion will not be used for minor incidents (e.g. failure to do homework, lateness, poor academic performance or breaches of uniform rules), except where these are persistent and defiant.

**Single Incident**

Fixed term exclusion may be used in response to a serious breach of school rules and policies or a disciplinary offence. In such cases the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher will initiate the investigation of the incident thoroughly and consider all evidence to support the allegation, taking account of the school’s policies. The pupil will be encouraged to give their version of events and a check will be made as to whether the incident may have been provoked, for example by bullying or racial harassment.

The Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher will decide if a fixed term exclusion is to become permanent after full investigation.

**Exclusion Procedure**

* The staff will follow the Behaviour Policy to encourage the correct behaviour in school.
* Staff will discuss continued poor behaviour with the Head Teacher and the Head teacher or Deputy Head Teacher will take any necessary action.
* If the poor behaviour continues the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher or Teacher will meet with the parents.

If the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher decides to exclude a pupil (fixed term or permanent exclusion) they will:

* Communicate with the Directors of the school.
* Ensure that there is sufficient recorded evidence to support the decision.
* Explain the decision to the pupil.
* Contact the parents, explain the decision and ask that the child be collected.
* Send a letter to the parents confirming the reasons, whether it is a permanent or fixed term, the length of the exclusion and any terms or conditions agreed for the pupil’s return.
* The pupil will be sent home for a fixed period of days.
* A return to school meeting will be held following the expiry of the fixed term exclusion and this will involve the Head Teacher and other staff where appropriate. During this meeting a Support Plan will be drawn up.
* During the course of a fixed term exclusion where the pupil is to be at home, parents are advised that the pupil is not allowed on the school premises, and that daytime supervision is their responsibility as parents/guardians.
* All records relating to exclusions will be stored confidentially.