



DRUMGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

POLICY STATEMENT: SUSPENSIONS

Aim:

1. To implement part of the positive behaviour management policy of the school.
2. To ensure that school procedures regarding suspensions are in accordance with School (Suspensions and Expulsion of Pupils) (Amendment) Regulations (NI), 1998
3. To follow guidelines and procedure as laid down by Education Authority, Southern Region.

Implementation:

1. Suspension is a sanction which will be imposed by the Principal when -
 - (a) the action(s) and/or behaviour(s) of the pupil concerned puts at risk or danger the health and safety of themselves or others in the school community.
and/or
 - (b) all possible preventive strategies and sanctions have been tried to integrate the pupil into the normal life of the school have not been successful.
and/or
 - (c) the attitude and behaviour of the pupil clearly exhibits serious defiance of authority, an unwillingness to conform to the accepted code of conduct and behaviour of the school or the complete disregard for school property and equipment.
2. This is a serious sanction, a record of which is sent to the EA Southern Region, and which may form part of the pupil record, and which may be referred to in references and other information which are requested by other organisations. In this matter school will follow guidance issued by the Department of Education.
3. In the event of a pupil being suspended the Principal will:
 - (a) inform the parent in writing that a suspension is being imposed, stating the reason and duration. The suspension will initially not exceed 5 school days and in most cases will commence from the end of the school day in which it was given. Where it is considered that it is inappropriate for the pupil to remain on the school premises, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be asked to collect the pupil and the suspension will begin immediately.
 - (b) inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) that for the duration of the suspension the pupil is their responsibility. The pupil concerned will be given work to complete during the period of suspension, which is then returned to school for marking. A suspended pupil is required to be available in the home during school hours should the EWO need to visit.
 - (c) Inform the following, with the reason for the suspension:
 - The Education Authority, Southern Region
 - Chair of Board of Governors/The Board of Governors
 - The Education and Welfare Service (If necessary)
4. The parent(s)/guardian(s), together with the pupil, will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the suspension, which normally takes place after the suspension and this meeting must take place before the pupil returns to school. At this meeting the way forward post suspension will be discussed. Both parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil will be asked to re-affirm their support



DRUMGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

of the school's Code of Conduct and asked to sign a Contract of Good Behaviour and, if deemed appropriate, a Risk Assessment.

5. In circumstances where a pupil has been suspended for a second time or the incident is of a nature that it has put themselves or others at risk of harm or injury the need for a Risk Assessment shall be determined by Senior Pastoral Staff. In such cases, the parent and pupil will be invited to review, agree, and sign the Risk Assessment.
6. For the purpose of the re-integration and monitoring, the pupil will be placed on either Daily Report or a Target Plan for initially 10 consecutive school days. If the pupil's behaviour does not improve then, the parents/guardians will be contacted regarding the implementation of further or alternative reasonable adjustments so the young person can be supported to avail of their education.
7. If there is no agreement on the way forward, the Principal may seek permission from the Board of Governors to extend the period of suspension.
8. In circumstances where a pupil has been suspended for a second time, the Board of Governors may request that the parent(s)/guardian(s) and pupil attend a meeting with them to discuss a way forward.
9. There is no right of appeal against a suspension.

Monitoring:

The policy will be monitored at regular and appropriate intervals. Reviews of the policy and its associated procedures will be taken through the pastoral structure of the school with changes subject to approval by the Board of Governors.

Evaluation:

Changes to the policy and its operations will be subject to the process of monitoring, appropriate or necessary changes as the policy operates, or when additional guidance and direction is given.

Policy reviewed: April 2024

Signed: *M. G. Mulholland* (Secretary to BOG)

Next review date: April 2026

Ratified by Board of Governors: