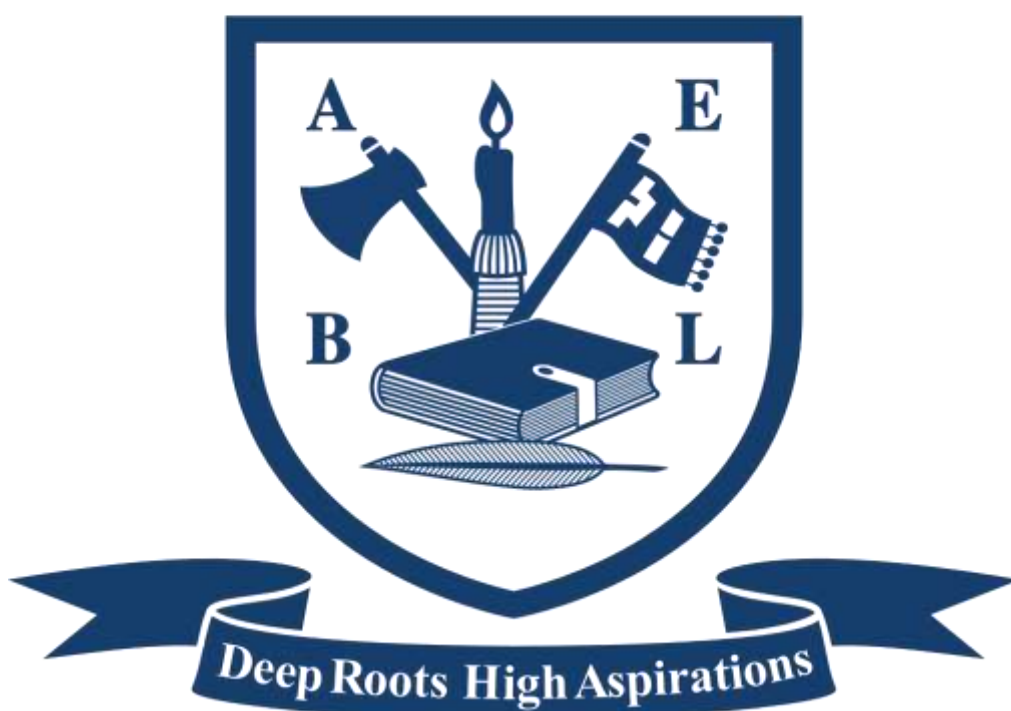


HIGH ASPIRATIONS

KNEBWORTH

Primary and Nursery School



Exclusions Policy

*This policy is reviewed on an annual basis
Next review date: November 2026*



RESPECT - RESPONSIBILITY - RESILIENCE

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Exclusions

Only the Headteacher of a school can exclude a pupil and this must be on disciplinary grounds. A pupil may be excluded for one or more fixed periods (up to a maximum of 45 school days in a single academic year), or permanently. Permanent exclusion should 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 others in the school. The decision to exclude a pupil must be lawful, reasonable and fair.

(DfE statutory guidance on exclusion)

Fixed Period Suspensions

A fixed period of between one and a maximum of forty-five school days in any one school year may be imposed. It is likely to be recommended as a sanction for a breach of the school's behaviour policy or for repeated unacceptable behaviour for which a pupil will have already received a warning and about which parents or carers have been informed.

Behaviour that could lead to a fixed period of suspension includes:

- Physical assault against another pupil or adult including fighting
- Verbal abuse and/or threatening behaviour against another pupil or adult including swearing
- Bullying, including verbal, physical and racial bullying
- Damaging school or personal property belonging to another member of the school community
- Theft including stealing school property or personal property belonging to a member of the school community
- Persistent disruptive behaviour including challenging staff decisions, disobedience and persistent violation of school rules.

Permanent Exclusions

Permanent exclusion is the final sanction open to the school. Before the Headteacher, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, decides that permanent exclusion is to be used, it will need to be demonstrated that all reasonable alternative strategies have been considered.

A 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
- That to allow the pupil to remain in school would be detrimental to the education or welfare of other pupils or other members of the school community

It is expected that in most cases parents or carers will have already been consulted with in regards to their child's behaviour and they will have received an indication that permanent exclusion is a real possibility.

Behaviour that will lead to a permanent exclusion may include:

- Extreme physical violence towards another pupil or member of the school community
- Extreme, persistent, threatening or bullying behaviour
- Repeated incidents of contravening the school's behaviour policy

This list is not exclusive and permanent exclusion may be used by the Headteacher for a one-off incident if she/he considers it to be of an extreme nature.

Any suspension or exclusion will follow the DfE Statutory Guidelines (updated August 2024) and the procedures outlined in Herts Exclusion Guidance Supplement (August 2024).