

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

School exclusions can be stressful and confusing for families. Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are more likely to face exclusion, and it's important to understand your rights and the support available.

If your child is facing exclusion, you don't have to navigate this alone. We provide free, confidential, and impartial advice to help you understand the process, explore your options, and work towards the best outcome for your child.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF EXCLUSION?

There are only two types of exclusions:

Fixed-Term Exclusion – A temporary exclusion for a set number of school days (up to 45 days in a school year).

Permanent Exclusion – A decision by the school to remove a pupil permanently.

Exclusions can only be given for disciplinary reasons – a school cannot exclude a child simply because they cannot meet their needs.

If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), schools should avoid permanent exclusion where possible and work with you and the Local Authority to find solutions.



WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOUR CHILD IS EXCLUDED

Fixed-Term Exclusion:

- The school must provide written notice explaining the reason and length of exclusion.
- For exclusions of more than 5 days, the school must arrange alternative education from the 6th day.
- If the exclusion lasts more than 15 days, the school governors must hold a meeting to review the decision.

Permanent Exclusion:

- You must receive written notice immediately.
- The school governors must meet within 15 school days to review the decision.
- The Local Authority must provide alternative full-time education from the 6th day.

CHALLENGING AN EXCLUSION

Parents have the right to:

- ✓ Make written representations to the school governors for both fixed-term and permanent exclusions.
- ✓ Attend a meeting with governors if an exclusion is over 5 days in a term.
- ✓ Request an independent review panel if they disagree with a permanent exclusion.
- ✓ Request a SEND expert to attend an independent review panel, even if the school has not recognised their child as having SEND.
- ✓ Make a discrimination claim to the First-Tier Tribunal if the exclusion is related to SEND or a protected characteristic.

Unlawful Exclusions

Informal exclusions (e.g. asking a child to stay home without formally recording it) and part-time timetables without agreement are not allowed. If you are concerned about this, we can help.

For more details, check the official government guidance: '[Suspension and permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England](#)'.

