



# BELLE VUE GIRLS' ACADEMY

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### Exclusions & Suspensions Policy

Reviewed by	Approved by	Date of Approval	Next Review Date
EHA	LGB	July 2024	July 2025

Belle Vue Girls' Academy is committed to being a fully accessible and inclusive organisation, welcoming and respecting the diversity of students, staff, community and visitors. This policy is based on DfE statutory guidance [Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement, \(September 2023\)](#).

### **Our expectations are clarified in the school aims:**

Our aim is to provide an exceptional educational experience for all, empowering learners to become academically, socially, culturally, and emotionally confident young people, ready to take their place in the world. We promote inclusion and diversity, break down barriers to learning, and we tackle all forms of disadvantage. We believe education has the power to dramatically improve life chances. We want our learners to believe in themselves and aspire to great things, equipped with the confidence to become independent, inquisitive, and open-minded young people. We support our students to develop as life-long learners and become active and principled citizens who are committed to contributing to the communities in which they live, and the wider world.

**To achieve the school aims, we are committed to the development of all our students in becoming confident learners, confident communicators and confident future citizens who demonstrate the following attributes:**

- Show **compassion** by creating an environment where everyone is welcome, supported, and confident about being themselves.
- Show **respect** by being open-minded and treating others as they would wish to be treated.
- Show **responsibility** through self-discipline and by being well-organised, polite, and well-behaved.
- Show **resilience** by being persistent and determined and keeping going when faced with challenges.

### **Rationale**

This policy is underpinned by the commitment of all at Belle Vue Girls' Academy to ensure the safety and well-being of the whole school community and to maintain an appropriate educational environment in which all can learn, achieve, and realise the aims set out above.

### **Introduction**

Exclusion/suspension are extreme sanctions and are only used by the Headteacher (or, in the absence of the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher who is acting in that role). Before deciding whether to exclude or suspend a student the Headteacher will ensure that:-

- a) appropriate investigations have been carried out
- b) all the evidence available has been considered
- c) the student's version of events has been heard
- d) statutory guidance on exclusions, equalities policy and disability discrimination has been taken into account.

Having considered these matters the Headteacher will make a decision on exclusion based on the balance of probabilities established. In reaching a decision, the Headteacher will look at each case on its own merits and avoid a tariff system, ie, fixing a standard penalty for a particular action, as unfair and inappropriate.

Exclusion or suspension may be used for any of the following, all of which constitute examples of unacceptable conduct, and are infringements of the School's Behaviour for Learning Policy:

- Physical assault against a pupil
- Physical assault against an adult
- Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil
- Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult
- Bullying
- Racist abuse
- Sexual misconduct
- Drug and alcohol related
- Damage
- Theft
- Persistent or general disruptive behaviour
- Use or threat of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item
- Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity
- Abuse relating to disability
- Inappropriate use of social media or online technology
- Willful and repeated transgression of protective measures in place to protect public health
- Unacceptable behaviour which has previously been reported and for which Academy sanctions and other interventions have not been successful in modifying the student's behaviour.

This is not an exhaustive list and there may be other situations where the Headteacher makes the judgment that exclusion or suspension is an appropriate sanction.

### **Suspension**

- A student will not be suspended for a period that exceeds 45 days in any one school year
- The school will make every effort to inform parents of a suspension before the end of the school session (the school office closes at 4pm) by telephone, email or text
- This will be followed up in all cases with a letter
- Parents will be informed of the length of the suspension, the reasons for the suspension and their rights, including their right to make representations and who to contact if they wish to make representations about the suspension
- When a student is required to be at home, parents/carers will be advised that the student is not allowed on the school premises, and that daytime supervision is their responsibility, as parents/carers
- The letter will also make clear the date and time when the student should return to school for a reintegration meeting
- The school will continue to provide education for all students on suspensions and mark the work that is completed and returned to school
- If a student with an EHCP is suspended the school may call an Interim Annual review seeking the advice of the LA
- The school will plan the return and reintegration into school after suspensions with parents and students
- The Headteacher will inform the Local Authority of all suspensions, via the automated SIMS data share
- According to Department for Education guidance school is obliged to provide full time education from the sixth day of any period of suspension of six days or longer
- The school will consult with the LA officers for any suspension of more than five days in order that appropriate full-time education and transport is arranged

## Permanent Exclusion

- The decision to exclude a student permanently could be taken by the Headteacher in the following circumstances:-
  - (a) in response to a serious breach, or persistent breaches, of the school's Behaviour & Welfare policy;
  - (b) where allowing the student to remain in School would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or others in the school.
    - In the case of a permanent exclusion the same process as that for suspensions will be followed except the communication will make clear that it is a permanent exclusion.
    - The Headteacher will inform the Governors' and Local Authority within one school day of any permanent exclusions.

## Equality Act 2010

The school will follow the guidance on the Equality Act 2010 published by the 'Equality and Human Rights Commission' in Section 5.4 entitled 'What equality law means for you as an educational provider'

This guidance states that whilst a 'school must not discriminate against a pupil by excluding them from school'; *"it does not mean a school cannot exclude a pupil with a protected characteristic"*. The guidance recognises that *"there may be occasions when it is appropriate to exclude a pupil with a protected characteristic"* it stresses it is important that a school does not exclude *"because of"* the protected characteristic.

## Alternatives to Exclusion

Belle Vue Girls' Academy works closely with other schools through the Behaviour and Attendance Collaborative (BAC) to find alternatives to exclusion. The Headteacher may decide to send a student to another school for a set number of days. Belle Vue Girls' Academy will provide work for the student in these cases. If a student misbehaves, the placement will be cancelled and the Headteacher may take the decision to put in place a suspension.

The school will work closely with other schools to undertake managed moves (following a successful off-site direction) where such a course of action would be of benefit both to the student and the schools concerned. The threat of a permanent exclusion will not be used as the means to persuade parents/carers to move their daughter to another school.

## Lunchtime Exclusion

Students whose behaviour at lunchtime is disruptive may be excluded from the school premises for the duration of the lunchtime period. This will be treated as a suspension and parents will have the same right to gain information and to appeal.

## Behaviour Outside School

Students' behaviour outside School on school "business" (for example educational visits and journeys, away school sports fixtures or work experience placements) is subject to the school's behaviour & welfare policy. Inappropriate behaviour in these circumstances will be dealt with as if it had taken place in school. If students' behaviour in the immediate vicinity of the school or on a journey to and from school is inappropriate and meets the school criteria for suspension or exclusion, then the Headteacher may decide to suspend/exclude.