

The Oratory School (OS) Exclusions Policy

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Regulatory Body* (if a regulatory policy)	ISI
Relevant Legislation* (if a regulatory policy)	Behaviour and Discipline in Schools (2014)
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Linked policies	Drugs Policy Smoking Policy Safeguarding Policy Physical Intervention and Restraint Policy Searching Students and their Possessions Policy Self-Harm Policy RSE Policy

1. Underlying Principles

- 1.1 The Oratory School is a caring school community committed to equal opportunity for all. It is felt that exclusions of students from the school, whether permanent, or as suspensions, are damaging to the school community. Consequently, a student will only be excluded or suspended when other strategies and sanctions have not been effective over time, or when there has been a single, clear and serious breach of discipline, or if allowing the student to remain in the school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or other students in the school, in the short or long term
- 1.2 The school follows the regulations concerning exclusions set out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 This policy has been compiled to provide all staff, students and parents with a transparent framework of the procedures used when dealing with a situation in which a student will, or may, be excluded.

3. Guidelines

- 3.1 A student may be excluded if:
 - a. the student has committed a serious disciplinary offence
 - b. the student is accused of a serious criminal offence
 - c. for medical reasons, the student's presence in the school represents a serious risk to the health and safety of students and staff
 - d. the student has ignored repeated warnings and minor punishments for repeated more minor offences.

4. The Procedure

4.1 Circumstances

The temporary or permanent exclusion of a student is an extreme sanction and is only administered by the Head, or in his absence a designated senior colleague (eg: either of the Deputy Heads) or the Bursar (in cases of exclusion for non-payment of fees).

4.2 Investigation and decision

- i. A student may be suspended pending an investigation, as a neutral act, if there is a possibility that the welfare of other students may be compromised by their remaining in the school. Except in the case of a

neutral suspension, a thorough investigation will precede an exclusion or a suspension.

- ii. All evidence will be very carefully assessed and collated. Records will be kept of all exclusion and suspension proceedings. In addition, a student will always be allowed and encouraged to give his/her account of events.

4.3 Communication

- i. In the event of an exclusion or suspension, the relevant student's parents will always be informed immediately, first by telephone, and then by letter, if a face to face meeting is not possible.
- ii. All exclusion and suspension details should be kept as confidential as possible. The Chair of Governors will always be informed and involved with any procedures which does, or may, result in a suspension of more than five days, or an exclusion.
- iii. The Head Master may arrange an interview with the parents of a suspended student when the student is to return to school.
- iii. Any student who is permanently excluded will not be removed from the school register until the appeal process has been completed.

5. Parameters

- 5.1 This policy applies to all students when they are on School premises, or in the care of the School, or wearing School uniform, or otherwise representing or associated with the School, and also when boarders are in the company of day students at, or away from School premises, or outside School hours.

6. Support

- 6.1 The school will seek, as far as is possible and practical, to support a student who has been suspended from school with the setting of work. In the case of an exclusion, the school will seek to support the student, and family, as far as is possible and practical with transfer arrangements to a new school, and with reconciliation, if necessary.