

1 Our Values at Northern House School

We at Northern House School are aware that many of our children have experienced exclusion from previous mainstream settings. This involves trauma not only for the child but also for the families involved. We are committed to giving every child a second chance and work hard to avoid any further need for exclusion.

We achieve this by

- creating a warm, accepting and nurturing school environment
- teaching children in small classes of no more than 8 pupils
- building trusting relationships between adults and children
- maintaining daily contact with parents and carers
- consistently applying behaviour management strategies including a well tried and successful system of rewards and consequences

2 Guidance for Parents on Behaviour Management at Northern House School

Parents are directed to our comprehensive policy on behaviour management that can be found on our school website. (www.northernhouse.ik.org). Click on 'Documents' and scroll down to 'School Policies'. Click this link and you will find our 'Behaviour, Attendance and Bullying Policy'. Alternatively, ask for a paper copy which the school will be happy to provide.

This document includes a complete guide to how we manage behaviour at school and what our expectations are.

It includes reference to 'Time Out'. This refers to a system in which pupils are withdrawn from class if their behaviour makes effective learning difficult for them or for other pupils. It is, in effect, 'internal exclusion'. Internal exclusion can extend to those occasions when a pupil is required to stay in school when other children leave the site for educational visits. This may happen when we are unable to provide the resources necessary to keep that child and other children safe in a public place.

3 External Exclusion

Despite all our best efforts to avoid it, there are rare occasions on which the external exclusion of a child is the only safe option.

Such exclusion would only be carried out if a child behaved in a way that, in the opinion of the headteacher, threatened the **health and safety** of the child, other children, staff or members of the public.

In these circumstances the following options are available to the headteacher:

- (i) fixed term exclusion : the child will be sent home for a fixed number of days

- (ii) permanent exclusion : the child is permanently excluded from the school

A permanent exclusion is a last resort, and used only when previous fixed term exclusions have not proved effective in changing the behaviour, or when a one-off incident is so severe that the headteacher judges there is no other safe option open to the school.

4 Parents' / Carers' rights to appeal against an external exclusion

Fixed term exclusions of 5 days or fewer in any one term are not open to appeal, though parents are entitled to make their views known to the Head and the Governing Body. The Governing Body will be sent a copy of the exclusion letter within 24 hours of every case of a fixed term exclusion.

Fixed term exclusions of over 5 days in any one term are open to appeal. The Governing Body will hear the appeal and may either uphold or overturn the exclusion.

A decision to exclude a child permanently from the school is never taken until the headteacher has convened an urgent case review to which parents / carers and professionals will be invited. This review will consider whether any alternative to permanent exclusion exists. If the decision to exclude permanently is taken, an automatic appeal will be heard by a committee of the School's Governing Body delegated to adjudicate in such matters. The Governing Body has the power to confirm the exclusion or to reinstate the excluded pupil. A further appeal can be made to an independent panel should this appeal fail.

Whenever possible, parents / carers will be consulted by phone before any decision to exclude is made

Parents / carers will receive detailed advice on how to make their views known or to request an appeal hearing within one school day of the beginning of any fixed term or permanent exclusion.