



POLICY FOR REINTEGRATION OF PERMANENTLY EXCLUDED PUPILS (SECONDARY)

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Introduction

The rate of permanent exclusions from Stockton secondary schools is low in comparison with national, regional and statistical neighbours comparators. This reflects our schools' tenacity in continuing to work with and support pupils presenting very significant challenges. It is likely therefore that there will be few cases where an immediate return to another mainstream school is likely to lead to a successful placement. It is important, however, to ensure that where mainstream return is appropriate a proper protocol exists to manage mainstream returns in a planned and timely way.

Process

Where a child is permanently excluded from a mainstream school the exclusion papers and other supportive documentation will be considered at a Pupil Planning Meeting. The Inclusion Officer will meet with the parents/carers and pupil prior to the meeting to establish their views.

The Pupil Planning Meeting will consider whether:

- a) An immediate return to mainstream school is appropriate.
- b) The child is likely to be able to return to mainstream school following a short period of intensive support in the Bishopton Centre (Turnaround).
- c) The child is likely to need a longer period at the Bishopton Centre during which a determination of an appropriate way forward will be made (Assessment).
- d) The child is likely to need alternative education provision for the remainder of his/her school career (this is only an option for pupils in KS4 and those towards the end of Y9) (Alternative Provision).

In all cases the parents / carers and pupil's views will be taken into account and the Pupil Planning Meeting view discussed with them.

a) Pupils able to make an immediate return to mainstream school:

- Except where parents have expressed a preference for a particular mainstream school, the Local Authority (LA) will arrange for admission to the nearest mainstream school to the parents/carers home with vacancies (except where exceptional circumstances apply).
- Where parents/carers express a preference for a school that is not the nearest mainstream school the LA will make arrangements for admission to the school if the school has vacant places. The parents/carers will be informed that in these circumstances they will be responsible for any transport arrangements to the school.

b) The child is likely to be able to return to mainstream school following a short period of intensive support in the Bishopton Centre:

- Arrangements are made to admit the pupil to the Bishopton Centre as a Turnaround placement (the programme operating for turnaround will be modelled on the 'New Directions' provision)
- The LA notifies the nearest school with vacancies (subject to the variations at a) above that the pupil should be admitted at the end of the 9-week Turnaround placement.

- A link contact is identified in the receiving school who will establish contact with the parents/carers and the pupil and with centre staff.
- A planning meeting is arranged for 6 weeks after placement to be attended by the parents, pupil, Bishopton Centre Manager, school link contact, any appropriate professionals, Inclusion Officer. A written report on the pupil's progress since placement will be considered. The report will include: attendance and punctuality, academic progress, behaviour, social skills – including relationships with staff and pupils, parental involvement and reintegration issues. The meeting will plan either a full time admission to the school at the end of the 9 weeks or a phased integration over not more than 9 weeks.
- In the event of any concern in relation to the appropriateness of admission as above the centre report and meeting minutes will be considered by the next Pupil Planning Meeting.

c) The child is likely to need a longer period at the Bishopton Centre during which a determination of an appropriate way forward will be made:

- Arrangements are made to admit the pupil to the Bishopton Centre as an assessment place.
- Where progress in the centre suggests that a mainstream placement may be appropriate then a Pupil Planning Meeting will consider a written report on the pupil's progress.
- Where the PPM considers that mainstream return is appropriate then the process to be followed is as in b) above.

(The same process will apply for any pupil currently placed at the Bishopton Centre where mainstream return is being considered.)

d) The child is likely to need alternative education provision for the remainder of his / her school career:

- Arrangements are made to admit the pupil to the Bishopton Centre as an Alternative Provision pupil.
- Where subsequently the appropriateness of a mainstream concern may be considered proceed as c) above.