

# Newbridge Learning Community



# Exclusion Policy 2026-2027

Date policy last reviewed: January 2026

The next scheduled review date for this policy is January 2027

_____	Headteacher	Date:	_____
_____	Chair of governors	Date:	_____

## Exclusions Policy (2026–2027)

---

### 1. Local Authority Alignment

This policy is implemented in accordance with **Wigan Local Authority guidance on pupil exclusions** and all statutory requirements. The school works in close partnership with Wigan LA to:

- Reduce exclusions wherever possible
- Promote early intervention and graduated responses
- Safeguard vulnerable children and young people
- Support inclusion, reintegration and access to appropriate alternative provision

The school follows Wigan LA procedures for:

- Notification of exclusions
  - Data submission and monitoring
  - Multi-agency planning and decision-making
  - Reintegration, review and support
- 

### 2. School Context and Values

As a **specialist SEMH secondary provision**, the school recognises that behaviour is often a form of communication linked to unmet need, trauma, or emotional dysregulation. Exclusion is therefore used **only as a last resort**, within a **trauma-informed and relational framework**, and in line with Wigan LA inclusion principles.

Our work is underpinned by the values of:

- **Community** - shared responsibility and partnership
- **Courage** - making difficult decisions to protect wellbeing
- **Compassion** - understanding individual experiences and needs
- **Competence** - acting lawfully, reflectively and professionally

*At Newbridge Learning Community, exclusion is never viewed as a punishment. It is a serious safeguarding and educational decision made to protect all members of the school community while longer-term support is reviewed.*

---

### 3. Legal Framework

This policy complies with:

- Education Act 2002
- School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) Regulations
- DfE *Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and PRUs*
- Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- SEND Code of Practice

All exclusions are carried out in line with Wigan Local Authority statutory guidance and local protocols.

---

### 4. Principles Governing Exclusion

In line with Wigan LA guidance:

- Exclusion is a **last resort**
  - Decisions are made by the **Headteacher**, or in their absence, the **Deputy Headteacher**
  - Behaviour is understood in the context of each pupil's SEMH needs, including cognition and learning, communication and interaction, sensory and physical needs, ASC, all SEND needs, safeguarding considerations and experiences of trauma.
  - **Reasonable adjustments** must be evidenced
  - Exclusions are **lawful, reasonable, proportionate and non-discriminatory**
- 

### 5. Graduated Response to Behaviour (SEMH-Specific)

Before exclusion is considered, the school will demonstrate a graduated response, which may include:

- Individual Support Plans (ISPs)
  - Risk assessments reviewed following incidents
  - Therapeutic and relational interventions
  - Multi-agency meetings (SEND, Educational Psychology, Social Care, Health)
  - Reduced or part-time timetables only as part of a **time-limited, planned intervention** with Wigan LA oversight
- 

## 6. Types of Exclusion

### 6.1 Suspension (Fixed-Term Exclusion)

A suspension may be issued where:

- There has been a serious breach of the Behaviour Policy
- Persistent behaviour significantly disrupts learning or safety
- Appropriate in-school and multi-agency strategies have been attempted

Suspensions will not exceed statutory limits and will be recorded and reported to **Wigan LA without delay**.

### 6.2 Permanent Exclusion

Permanent exclusion will only be considered where:

- There has been a serious or persistent breach of behaviour expectations, **and**
- Allowing the pupil to remain would seriously harm the education or welfare of others

In line with Wigan LA expectations, the school will evidence:

- A clear graduated response
  - Intervention and external agency involvement
  - Consideration of all reasonable alternatives
- 

## 7. SEMH, SEND and Vulnerable Pupils

In accordance with Wigan LA inclusion guidance:

- Pupils with **EHCPs or SEN Support** will not be excluded without full consideration of need
- Behaviour linked to disability or SEMH need will be addressed through **reasonable adjustments**
- The school will consider whether further assessment, provision or review is required

The school works closely with:

- Wigan SEND services
  - Educational Psychology
  - Social Care
  - Health and other relevant agencies
- 

## **8. Pupil Voice and Participation**

Wherever possible, pupils will be supported to:

- Share their account of events
  - Receive support from a trusted adult
  - Have their emotional state and communication needs considered
  - Take part in restorative conversations following incidents
- 

## **9. Safeguarding and Vulnerability**

Exclusion decisions take account of:

- Safeguarding risks, including exploitation, neglect and mental health
- The potential risk of harm during exclusion
- The need for additional checks for vulnerable pupils

The school liaises closely with safeguarding leads and Wigan LA where concerns arise.

---

## **10. Internal Suspension / Time-Out (Clear Distinction)**

The school may use:

- Internal regulation spaces

- Time-limited removal from class

These approaches:

- Are **not exclusions**
  - Are carefully monitored and recorded
  - Include safeguards to prevent misuse
- 

## 11. Managed Moves and Alternatives to Exclusion

Where appropriate:

- Managed moves are **voluntary**, planned and agreed with Wigan LA
  - Parents/carers are fully informed
  - Arrangements are time-limited and reviewed
  - Exclusion is never used to force a move
- 

## 12. Decision-Making Process

The Headteacher will:

- Review all available evidence and context
  - Consider safeguarding and welfare implications
  - Balance individual need with the safety of the wider community
  - Ensure compliance with Wigan LA and statutory guidance
- 

## 13. Communication and LA Notification

Parents/carers will be informed **without delay** and provided with:

- The reason for exclusion
- The type and length of exclusion
- Their rights to make representations

- Information regarding reintegration or review

Wigan Local Authority will be notified in line with statutory timescales.

---

#### 14. Education During Exclusion

In line with Wigan LA procedures:

- Work will be provided for the first five days of exclusion
  - For exclusions over five days, suitable full-time education will be arranged
- 

#### 15. Reintegration

Following a suspension:

- A reintegration meeting will take place
- Support plans and risk assessments will be reviewed
- Restorative and relational approaches will be prioritised

Reintegration is a **shared responsibility** between the school, family, pupil and Wigan LA.

---

#### 16. Use of Reasonable Force and Physical Intervention

- De-escalation is always the priority
  - Physical intervention is used **only as a last resort**
  - Practice aligns with the school's Positive Handling Policy
  - Serious incidents are reviewed to support learning and improvement
- 

#### 17. Shortened Days and Part-Time Timetables

These may be used:

- Only as part of a planned support or reintegration programme
- For a clearly defined, time-limited period
- With agreement from parents/carers and Wigan LA

- Never as an informal or unlawful exclusion
- 

## **18. Emotional Support During Exclusion**

Support may include:

- Welfare check calls
  - Access to mentoring or therapeutic input
  - Clear and supportive return-to-school planning
- 

## **19. Data Monitoring and Disproportionality**

The school monitors exclusion data by:

- SEND category
- Looked After Children status
- Gender and ethnicity
- Repeat exclusions

This information is reviewed to ensure equity and inform improvement.

---

## **20. Post-Exclusion Reflection and Repair**

Following exclusion, the school will:

- Review incidents and contributing factors
  - Reflect on practice and provision
  - Adjust support strategies where needed
  - Support the rebuilding of relationships
- 

## **21. Governance, Monitoring and Review**

- Exclusion data is shared with and monitored by Wigan LA
- Governors/Trust review patterns and ensure compliance
- The policy is reviewed regularly to reflect best practice