

# St John's Catholic Infant School

## Policy on School Exclusions



### *"Loving, Learning and Laughter Together with God"*

Article 3: "The best interests of the child must be top priority in all actions concerning children"

#### Introduction

Catholic belief is that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and as such, should all be treated justly.

*"The dignity of the human person is rooted in his or her creation in the image and likeness of God."*  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

At St John's Catholic Infant School, we strive to ensure that this belief is put into practice so that all are welcome. We work to ensure that each person, in all their uniqueness, is able to thrive in our Catholic school, irrespective of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, socio-economic background, physical appearance, disability or the actual or perceived sexual orientation of themselves or of their parents/carers.

*"Because all people are equal in God's sight, every person possesses the same dignity and has a claim to the same human rights. Hence every kind of social, racist, sexist, cultural or religious discrimination against a person is an unacceptable injustice."*  
*YOUCAT 330*

At St John's Catholic Infant School, we endeavour to create a safe and stimulating environment where everyone knows that they are valued as God's children. Every person has the right to be treated with respect and each person has the responsibility to treat others in the same way. Our Mission Phrase *"Loving, Learning and Laughter Together With God"* and our Mission Statement is lived out so that children are enabled to have the confidence and strategies to speak up and tell of any bullying experiences, knowing that positive and fair action will be taken.

*".....We will offer every child - whatever their individual characteristics – the chance to achieve their full potential, feel secure and enjoy growing up"*      *Extract from School Mission Statement*

Our Christian School Values are embedded into the heart of the school:

*"The fruits of the Holy Spirit are: Love, Peace, Faithfulness, Joy, Goodness, Gentleness, Patience, Self-Control and Kindness" (Galatians 5, 22-23)*

It is the overriding intention at St John's Catholic Infant School, that all children attend school. The health and safety of all children is a priority for the school. The school will attempt to meet the needs of all children and work towards avoiding the need for exclusion.

## Fixed term and permanent exclusions.

- Only the Headteacher and Deputy Head have the power to exclude a pupil from school
- The Headteacher may exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods, for up to 45 days in any one school year
- The Headteacher may also exclude a pupil permanently
- It is also possible for the Headteacher to convert a fixed-term exclusion into a permanent exclusion, if the circumstances warrant this.
- The purpose of the exclusion should not be seen as a sanction but as a cooling off period for the child and teacher to reflect on what has happened and what needs to change upon re-integration
- If the Headteacher excludes a pupil, he/she informs the parents immediately, giving reasons for the exclusion
- At the same time, the Headteacher makes it clear to the parents that they can, if they wish, appeal against the decision to the governing body. The school informs the parents how to make any such appeal.
- The Head teacher informs the LA and the governing body about any permanent exclusion, and about any fixed-term exclusions beyond five days in any one term
- The Governing Body itself cannot either exclude a pupil or extend the exclusion period made by the Headteacher but will meet to consider an exclusion appeal, they consider the circumstances in which the pupil was excluded, any representation by parents and the LA, and whether the pupil should be reinstated.
- If the governors' appeals panel decides that a pupil should be reinstated, the Headteacher must comply with this ruling.

Agreed by Governors on: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Reviewed: