

Exclusion Policy

This policy summarises the arrangements in place to implement an exclusion of a young person from Overley Hall School. The outcome to be achieved is the maintenance of a safe, stable, peaceful comfortable environment for the young people.

Due to the particular nature of our children/young people's difficulties and the associated challenging behaviours that they exhibit, we understand that the behaviour of our students may at times be unacceptable and disruptive or potentially dangerous to students or staff.

There are risk assessments and behaviour management plans in place for each student to encourage them to behave more appropriately, and we look for progress in our students in managing their own behaviours.

In exceptional circumstances where the safety of pupils are deemed at risk either physically, sexually or emotionally by a pupil, the Head Teacher, after consultation with senior management may provide education for the young person away from those at risk. This may help to prevent further harm or injury and give all concerned time for their anxieties to reduce. If the behaviours continue upon planned reintegration over a period of time, then Overley Hall will seek to call a meeting of concern with the placing authority(s) and parents, where appropriate. Overley Hall will endeavour to keep parents, social worker and placing authority informed of the situation. Behaviours will be closely monitored to try to identify whether there are any causal factors and intervene to reduce the need for further action. A multiagency approach should explore all avenues which may include seeking assessment, advice and support from the local authority 'challenging behaviour team', Psychological services, CAHMS or others. The multidisciplinary team should explore an array of strategies, including the possibility of providing additional staffing (See Behaviour Support Policy POL024). School will seek advice from its Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist and Clinical Psychologist to ensure the needs of the young person are met as well as is possible in such difficult circumstances.

Overley Hall has a non-exclusion policy however if a pupils behaviour is felt to be putting others persistently at serious risk, a decision may be taken by the Proprietor, Head Teacher and Head of Care after serious consultation to serve notice to quit (9 weeks) as these behaviours may be indicative that Overley Hall is not fully meeting the young person's needs. The school will assist wherever to ensure a suitable and appropriate placement is sought and that the transition to the new placement is smooth and as seamless as possible. Overley Hall will work hard to ensure the young person is educated during this notice period as efficiently as is possible and will continue to offer education which is appropriate, accessible and meet the individual special educational needs of the young person during this difficult period.

Overley Hall will place emphasis on keeping its pupils safe from harm and expects local authorities to act promptly when such a decision has been made. Overley Hall has an open door policy and would welcome Education, Social Care and Health professionals to monitor/support such difficult circumstances. It is the responsibility of the placing authority to find a suitable placement that is better equipped to meet the needs of the pupil within the 9 week notice period.

Overley Hall will do everything within its power not to exclude following the 9 week notice period. If a suitable placement has not been identified, however the placing

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authority will have been fully informed that Overley Hall has stated that it feels it cannot meet the needs of the young person. During this time Overley Hall will try to reduce any anxiety the pupil may have due to autism by paying particular attention to the:

- Environment – people, volume, lighting, familiarity, safety, access, stimulation, activity, seating, resource availability, predictability of those within the room,
- Social demand – brought about by language, communication, expectation
- Changes
- Transitions
- Sensory needs and intolerances
- Supporting the young person by staff who have very positive, trusting relationships with them

In exceptional circumstances, OHS may reduce the period of Notice to Quit. This could happen in the event of:

- Sustained serious injury to pupils and/or staff
- Where the young person is at serious risk from self-harm

In all cases, transitions to new placement will be carried out with sensitivity and with the needs of the child/young person as paramount.