

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 DECEMBER 2015
SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS IN NOTTINGHAM
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1 Purpose

1.1 To provide an overview of school exclusions in Nottingham.

2 Action required

2.1 The Committee is asked to use the information provided to scrutinise the process for excluding children from schools in Nottingham; and identify whether any further scrutiny is required.

3 Background information

3.1 A child should only be excluded from school if they seriously or persistently breach the school's behaviour policy, and it would seriously harm the education or welfare of themselves or others in the school if they remained in school. The decision to exclude a child can only be made by the Head Teacher or Principal.

3.2 Good discipline in schools is essential to ensure that all pupils can benefit from the opportunities provided by education. Government guidance supports head teachers in using exclusion as a sanction where it is warranted.¹ However, permanent exclusion should only be used as a last resort, in response to a serious breach, or persistent breaches, of the school's behaviour policy; and where allowing the pupil to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the pupil or others in the school.

3.3 The decision to exclude a pupil must be lawful, reasonable and fair. Schools have a statutory duty not to discriminate against pupils on the basis of protected characteristics, such as disability or race. Schools should give particular consideration to the fair treatment of pupils from groups who are vulnerable to exclusion.

3.4 Whenever a head teacher excludes a pupil, they must, without delay, notify parents of the period of exclusion, together with the reasons for it.

4 List of attached information

4.1 None.

¹ Department for Education, Exclusion from maintained schools, Academies and pupil referral units in England, a guide for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion.

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

5.1 None.

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

6.1 Department for Education, Exclusion from maintained schools, Academies and pupil referral units in England, a guide for those with legal responsibilities in relation to exclusion.

7 Wards affected

7.1 All.

8 Contact information

8.1 Contact Colleagues
Rav Kalsi
Senior Governance Officer
Rav.kalsi@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
0115 8763759