

BANBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL POLICY STATEMENT: SUSPENSIONS

Aim:

1. To implement part of the discipline policy of the school.
2. To ensure that school procedures regarding suspensions are in accordance with School (Suspensions and Expulsion of Pupils) (Amendment) Regulations (NI), 1998.
3. To follow guidelines and procedure as laid down by Southern Education and Library Board.

Implementation:

1. Suspension is a severe sanction which will be imposed by the Principal when:-
 - (a) The action(s) and/or behaviour(s) of the pupil concerned puts at risk or endangers the health and safety of themselves or others in the school community, and/or
 - (b) The action(s) and/or behaviours of the pupil violates the person or property of a member of school staff or an immediate member inside or outside school, and/or
 - (c) All possible preventive strategies and sanctions have been tried to integrate the pupil into the normal life of the school have not been successful, and/or
 - (d) The attitude and behaviour of the pupil clearly exhibits serious defiance of authority, an unwillingness to conform to the accepted code of conduct and behaviour of the school or the complete disregard for school property and equipment.
2. This is a serious sanction, a record of which is sent to the SELB, and which may form part of the pupil's Pupil Profile and which may be referred to in references and other information which are regularly requested by other organisations. In this matter school will follow guidance issued by the Department of Education.
3. In the event of a pupil being suspended the Principal will:-
 - (a) Inform the parent in writing that a suspension is being imposed, stating the reason and duration. It will initially not exceed 5 school days and will commence from the end of the school day in which it was given. Where it is considered that it is inappropriate for the pupil to remain on the school premises, the parent(s)/guardian will be asked to collect the pupil immediately.

- (b) Inform the parent/sj/guardian that for the duration of the suspension the pupil is their responsibility and that they have a right of appeal to the Board of Governors. The pupil concerned will be given work to complete during the period of suspension, which is then returned to school for marking. A suspended pupil is required to be available in the home during school hours should the EWO need to visit.
- (c) Inform the following, with the reason for the suspension:-

Chairman of the Board of Governors
The Southern Education and Library Board
The Education and Welfare Service.

4. The parent/guardians of the pupil and the pupil will be invited to attend for interview, to discuss the suspension, as soon as possible or at the end of the suspension. The pupil should not return to school until this meeting has taken place. At this meeting the way forward, post suspension, will be discussed. Both parent(s)/guardians and pupil will be asked to re-affirm their support of the school's code of conduct and asked to sign a contract of good behaviour.
5. For the purpose of re-integration, and monitoring the pupil will be placed on either Daily Report or a Target Plan for initially 10 school days initially. At this meeting both parent(s) and pupil will be reminded that they may not take part in extra-curricular activities or social school functions for an agreed specified period of time.

If there is no agreement on the way forward, the Principal may seek permission from the Board of Governors to extend the period of suspension.

5. In circumstances where a pupil has been suspended for a second time, the Board of Governors may request that the parent(s)/guardian and pupil attend a meeting with them to discuss a way forward.

Monitoring:-

The policy will be monitored at regular and appropriate intervals. Reviews of the policy and its associated procedures will be undertaken through the pastoral structure of the school with changes subject to approval by the Board of Governors.

Evaluation:-

Changes to the policy and its operations will be subject to the process of monitoring, appropriate or necessary changes required as the policy operates, or when additional guidance and direction is given.

Approved by BOG: 4.11.2010