

True North Alternative Provision

Student Reset & Exclusions Policy

True North Alternative Provision

Status: Statutory Policy

Date of implementation: 14.02.2026

Reviewed by: Joanne Herschell-Smith Director/Head of True North Alternative Provision

Review cycle: Annual or in response to updated legislation or guidance

Next review due: 14.02.2027

1. Policy Statement

True North Alternative Provision is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where students are supported to engage positively with learning and develop appropriate behaviour.

Suspension and exclusion are used only as a last resort, where allowing a student to remain in the provision would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or others.

This policy is compliant with current Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance, safeguarding duties, and Ofsted expectations, and reflects the context of an alternative provision setting.

2. Legal & Statutory Framework

This policy is informed by and complies with:

- Education Act 2002
 - Education Act 2011
 - School Discipline (Student Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012
 - DfE: *Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and student referral units* (updated) 2024
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
 - Ofsted Education Inspection Framework 2019
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3. Principles & Ethos

True North Alternative Provision:

- Prioritises early intervention and de-escalation
- Recognises the additional vulnerabilities of students in alternative provision
- Considers behaviour within the context of SEND, SEMH, trauma, and unmet needs
- Uses restorative approaches wherever possible
- Ensures decisions are lawful, reasonable, and proportionate

4. Definitions

Student Reset

A reset is the temporary removal of a student from the provision for a fixed period.

Permanent Exclusion

A permanent exclusion is the decision that a student will not return to the provision.

Only the Head of Provision may reset or permanently exclude a student.

5. Grounds for Reset or Exclusion

A student may have a reset or permanent exclusion in response to:

- Serious or persistent breaches of the Behaviour Policy
- Behaviour that poses a serious risk to the safety of students or staff
- Violence or threatening behaviour
- Possession of prohibited items
- Serious safeguarding concerns

Each case will be considered individually.

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6. Decision-Making Process

Before deciding, the Head of Provision will:

- Investigate the incident thoroughly
- Consider all available evidence
- Take account of the student's age, SEND, SEMH needs, and personal circumstances
- Consider whether reasonable adjustments have been made
- Consider alternative strategies and support

Reset or exclusion will not be used for minor incidents.

7. Equality & SEND Considerations

The provision will ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

This includes:

- Considering whether behaviour is linked to disability or SEND
- Making reasonable adjustments
- Avoiding discriminatory practices

Where students have an EHCP, the placing local authority will be informed.

8. Length of Reset

- Reset will be for the shortest time necessary
 - The total number of reset days will not exceed statutory limits
 - Reintegration meetings will be held following reset
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9. Permanent Exclusion

Permanent exclusion will only be considered:

- In response to a serious one-off incident or persistent breaches
- Where all reasonable alternatives have been exhausted

The decision will be lawful, reasonable, and fair.

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10. Notification & Communication

Parents/carers will be informed without delay of:

- The reason for reset or exclusion
- The length and arrangements for education during reset
- Their right to make representations

All decisions will be confirmed in writing.

11. Education During Reset

Where required, suitable education will be arranged in line with statutory guidance.

True North Alternative Provision will work with:

- Parents/carers
 - Placing schools or local authorities
 - External agencies
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12. Safeguarding & Welfare

Safeguarding duties remain during suspension or exclusion.

The provision will:

- Consider risks to the student during time out of provision
 - Share relevant safeguarding information
 - Maintain appropriate contact where necessary
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13. Reintegration Following Suspension

A reintegration meeting will:

- Review expectations with student and parent/carers
- Agree support strategies
- Update risk assessments where required

The aim is successful reintegration.

14. Reviews & Appeals

Parents/carers have the right to:

- Make representations to the Head of True North Alternative Provision or the Advisory Board
- Request a review in line with statutory guidance

Permanent exclusions will be reviewed appropriately.

15. Record Keeping & Monitoring

The provision will:

- Keep accurate records of suspensions and exclusions
 - Monitor patterns and disproportionality
 - Report as required to relevant authorities
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16. Monitoring & Review

This policy will be:

- Reviewed annually
- Updated in line with statutory guidance
- Monitored by senior leadership and the Head of True North Alternative Provision

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