

2015-16 Dedicated Schools Grant Budget

Schools Forum

Date: 17th March 2015

ANNEX C

Permanent exclusion / permanent exclusion withdrawal. Reintegration to mainstream school

Rationale

The review of Swindon Fair Access Panel 2013 highlighted the following in relation to the reintegration of pupils to mainstream school.

All incidences of unsuccessful reintegration do come back to the Fair Access Panel as part of a quality assurance model. There is opportunity to improve on the positive outcomes in relation to reintegration and the group considered the issues that can affect reintegration and provide a pupil with the 'best chance of success':

- *Some pupils struggle with adapting to a mainstream timetable when they have been used to an EOTAS model.*
- *Family support needs to be maximised throughout the process.*
- *It is agreed best to move pupils back to mainstream as soon as possible and appropriate to avoid them becoming too engrained in the EOTAS arrangements. The EFAP exercise of 2011/12 highlighted the additional challenges faced by pupils who have been away from a mainstream school for an extended period.*
- *It is a concern of noted by EOTAS members in their consideration of a pupil being 'ready to return' that once a pupil reaches KS4 the chances of successful reintegration are limited.*
- *A further piece of work for consideration is looking together to try improve how pupils are prepared to return to a mainstream environment.*
- *It is critical that pupils are returned to mainstream school at the earliest appropriate opportunity.*

For a school successful reintegration can be seen as a major indication of 'closing the gap' in terms of educational inclusion and achievement.

The following process has been developed to improve the frequency and success rate of pupils being subject to reintegration from EOTAS.

Please note that this guidance applies to Swindon secondary schools only.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Ian Burbidge on 01793 464384 or iburbidge@swindon.gov.uk

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Process

1 – The permanent exclusion

- Pupil is subject to a permanent exclusion and the Head Teacher/Principal is minded to offer a permanent exclusion withdrawal.

Please note that a permanent exclusion withdrawal should only be considered after a decision is made to permanently exclude. A permanent exclusion withdrawal should not be seen as part of the graduated response in supporting pupils with challenging behaviour, nor discussed with parent/carer /colleagues in this regard.

- Permanent exclusion withdrawal meeting is held and parent/carer accepts the offer or decides to follow the formal permanent exclusion route.
- If the formal permanent exclusion route is followed the case would not be referred to the Fair Access Panel. Should a formal permanent exclusion take place the pupil would still be eligible for reintegration in line with this process.

2 - EOTAS support

- Within 6 days of the decision to permanently exclude the pupil will be allocated a place within Education other than at School (EOTAS).
- An admission meeting will be organised by the Exclusion and Reintegration Officer and following the start date the EOTAS provision will begin to prepare the pupil for return to a mainstream school. The aim will be to achieve a readiness to return within eight school weeks of the start date at EOTAS.
- The programme within EOTAS will include bespoke intervention to address any specific issues that have led to permanent exclusion in addition to a more generic programme aimed at supporting reintegration. A written plan will be developed and shared with all stake holders and reviewed at agreed intervals.

3 - Fair Access Panel, (FAP):

- Following permanent exclusion withdrawal the case will automatically be referred by the excluding school to the next Fair Access Panel (FAP) that sits every two weeks during term time.

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- If a formal permanent exclusion has taken place the same support programme will take place within EOTAS and the Exclusion and Reintegration officer will ensure that the pupils name is highlighted to the FAP to be placed on the agenda in consideration of a new school placement.
- In the case of a withdrawn permanent exclusion the FAP members will acknowledge that the pupil is deemed 'hard to place' and will vote on the question, 'PRU or mainstream at this time?'
 - If the vote supports, 'PRU at this time' the pupil will remain within EOTAs and will be considered in line with this reintegration process. The name of the pupil will automatically be placed on the next but one FAP agenda (4 weeks-time) for a choice of school to be agreed. This referral would then be considered by the same FAP members.
 - If the vote supports, 'mainstream at this time' a fast track reintegration will be organised facilitated by the LA Exclusion and Reintegration Officer in consultation with the EOTAS Reintegration Officer. Pupils who are recommended for a fast track return may need a specific targeted intervention but will move back to mainstream school as soon as is possible once a school is identified and agreed through the FAP.

4 - EOTAS support:

- The intervention within EOTAS will have begun and as part of this the EOTAS Reintegration Officer will work with the pupil and family to ascertain three choices of school in order of preference to be advised to the Fair Access Panel.
- By the end of the third week of intervention within EOTAS the Reintegration Officer will have obtained a view as to whether the pupil will be ready to return to a mainstream school within the original 8 week period. Where in exceptional circumstances this is not thought appropriate the pupil will not be referred to the FAP at this point but will automatically be considered in a further four weeks.
- Where it is the view that the pupil should not be subject to reintegration at this time the EOTAS team will work to achieve a proposal to reintegrate in the following four weeks. Should this not be possible alternative arrangements including consideration of an EHCP should be discussed.

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5 - Return to Fair Access Panel:

- At the panel where the pupils name is on the agenda the panel will vote to allocate a school.
- Once a school is decided upon that school will be informed and they will allocate a key worker to liaise with colleagues within EOTAS and the pupil and family in order to 'champion' the integration programme with the aim of starting full time within four school weeks. A reintegration plan should be developed that highlights key milestones/outcomes and dates of review.

6 – Preparing for re- integration.

- The following will be key indicators of readiness;
 - Positive relationship between key worker, pupil and family.
 - Uniform in place for start.
 - Visits to school to become conversant with the site and meet key personnel including tutor, head of year etc.
 - Time table agreed.
 - Any transport issues resolved.

7 - The reintegration

- Once the pupil starts at the receiving school they will be subject to an 8 week trial as is established current practice. The assigned key worker will monitor and support the pupil throughout this period.
- The designated school Behaviour and Attendance (B+A) Lead will have oversight and will be supporting the key worker in managing the process.
- Weekly progress reports should be provided to the pupil/family, key worker and EOTAS Reintegration Officer. These should feed in to the mid-term and final review meetings. These reports are important in that they will indicate whether the pupil is likely to be successful in coming on roll
- The final review meeting should confirm the school decision on whether to agree to take the pupil on roll or not supported by appropriate evidence.

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- In exceptional circumstances an extension to the trial period may be proposed but this should not exceed four weeks.

8 – Finance;

- The EOTAS team will support the costs of preparing for a successful transition through ensuring that uniform equipment and transport for the period of reintegration is supported. The EOTAS team will also allocate £250 to the receiving school in order for them to be able to support the costs associated with reintegration process, back fill of key worker whilst off site etc.

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