



Goresbrook School

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Goresbrook School

Behaviour Policy

This policy document contains:

1. Expectations
2. Policy Implementation
3. Prohibited Items/ Searching Pupils
4. Sanctions
5. Rewards
6. Exclusions and Suspensions

Date of next review	December 2026	Owner	Goresbrook School Principal
Review Period	1 Year		
Type of Policy	United Learning Policy	Approval	LGB
SLT member responsible for behaviour	Shereen Selim – Vice Principal		



Expectations

- 1.1 This policy sets out how Goresbrook School will promote good behaviour, self-discipline and respect, prevent bullying, ensure that pupils complete assigned work and regulate the conduct of pupils. In applying this policy, Goresbrook School will take into account its duties under the Equality Act 2010 regarding relevant characteristics protected by that act, notably disability. It will also take into account the needs of pupils with special educational needs. Goresbrook School will also have regard to its safeguarding policy where appropriate.
- 1.2 At Goresbrook School, learning is at the centre of everything we do. We believe that, in order to equip our pupils with the skills and experience required to fulfil their ambitions in the real world, we must ensure that we provide a learning environment at school where every person in the school community feels safe, secure and free to focus on their own learning. We believe that every single pupil has the ability to be exceptional – but to achieve this every pupil needs a safe, structured working environment where expectations are clear and every individual is held accountable for their actions. To ensure this is possible we have implemented a framework that sets clear expectations, promoting a culture where everyone is encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and feels safe, valued and respected. Our policy aims to:
- Promote positive behaviour.
 - Promote self-esteem, self-discipline and positive relationships.
 - Provide a safe environment where learning is disruption-free.
 - Ensure a consistent approach to tackling poor behaviour.
 - Make reasonable adjustment for those pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities. This will include those pupils with a medical diagnosis or Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) in place as well as pupils with identified additional needs who may require more SEND / pastoral support.

Policy Implementation

- 2.1 All staff are responsible for implementing Goresbrook School policy consistently and fairly throughout the school by setting the standards required to promote positive behaviour.
- 2.2 The Senior leadership team of Goresbrook School are responsible for ensuring all staff adhere to the behaviour policy and implement effective systems for keeping records of all reported incidents, reporting to governors and parents when required.
- 2.3 Pupils are responsible for: Punctuality and attendance pupils should:
- Arrive on time to Goresbrook School each day.
 - Arrive at their lessons on time.
 - Aim for 100% attendance and punctuality.

Behaviour and conduct

Pupils should:

- Ensure that all electronic devices such as mobile phones, tablets are out of sight and switched off in Goresbrook School.
- Refrain from bringing items of high value into Goresbrook School (Goresbrook School does not accept responsibility for loss, damaged or stolen items)
- Ensure that standards of uniform and appearance are excellent:



Pupils must wear appropriate outdoor shoes (no boots, trainers or steel-capped footwear); no jewellery with the exception of a plain wrist watch. Facial piercings, excessive make-up, hair dye that is not a natural hair colour are not acceptable and hair should not be shorter than a 'grade 1 setting' (no 'skin-fade' type hair-cuts). Beard or moustache length and styling must be short and conventional. Shaven hair / eye-brow lines are not permitted and nails should not be false or painted. Hair should be an acceptable length and for safety reasons should be tied back / placed in a bun if longer than collar length when in Physical Education, Science and food technology.

Pupils should:

- Not wear non-uniform items in and around school, including jumpers, hoodies or outdoor coats
- Limit eating and drinking to the canteen area and dispose of litter and food waste in the bins provided.
- Never engage in 'play fighting' or physical behaviour of any kind which could infringe the rights of others or risk physical injury.
- Use polite and appropriate language and communication when addressing members of Goresbrook School community and in public settings representing Goresbrook School community, taking account of all pupils' needs across Goresbrook School.
- Follow reasonable instructions first time or as quickly as possible.
- Never engage in any behaviour which could be detrimental to any other individual's health or wellbeing (i.e. bullying).

Moving safely around the school site pupils should:

- Walk in silence on the left, with pace, purpose and professionalism ensuring they are not blocking the way of any other members of Goresbrook School community.
- Ensure they are in full uniform, including their blazer, whilst moving around the site, arriving and departing from Goresbrook School.
- Be courteous to staff, other pupils, visitors, and all members of the public.
- Refrain from being drawn into large crowds where an incident may have occurred/be occurring, but instead ensure a member of staff is alerted immediately.
- Be silent and receptive when lining up as a year group and being addressed by member of staff.
- Never behave in a manner or indulge in any behaviour which could seriously be detrimental to their own or others' health/wellbeing.

Behaviour for Learning Pupils should:

- Line up silently outside a classroom prior to the start of a lesson.
- Enter the classroom in a calm, orderly manner, sitting in the seating plan devised by the teacher and immediately commencing the starter activity.
- Listen to the best of their ability when a staff member is addressing the class.
- Refrain from shouting or calling out.
- Be equipped: appropriate bag, PE kit, pens, pencils.
- Refrain from consuming any food or drink (apart from water) purchased from any external establishments in or around Goresbrook School site; this includes soft drinks, sweets and chewing gum.
- Ensure that toilet visits are taken during break or lunch unless the pupil has a medical condition, in which case a toilet pass will be issued by the appropriate Head of Year (reasonable adjustment)



- Take the necessary care and time to ensure that homework and classwork in books is presented appropriately – titles underlined, feedback in green pen, dates and handwriting clearly legible.
- Work to the very best of their ability in each lesson showing focus and diligence.
- Ensure that all homework tasks are attempted and completed to the best of their ability.
- Ensure all homework is completed to the best of their ability.
- Seek a teacher or other adult's help if any aspects of homework or classwork presents serious difficulty.

Representing Goresbrook School

Pupils are expected to demonstrate an appropriate standard of conduct on their journey to and from Goresbrook School and in any situation where they are ambassadors for Goresbrook School. Pupils are expected to:

- Arrive at and leave Goresbrook School in full uniform.
- Demonstrate politeness and courtesy at all times.
- Use public transport, cycle lanes/pedestrian zones sensibly and safely.
- Dispose of litter appropriately.
- Respect members of the public / wider community and ensure that public areas and property are treated respectfully.

2.4 Behaviour Expectations

There are some behaviours which fall outside Goresbrook School's expectations and would be dealt with by senior members of staff at Goresbrook School. In such circumstances, an investigation will take place and all relevant parties will be informed at the earliest convenience. Subsequent sanctions will be decided upon by the relevant senior member of staff or the Principal. An indicative but non-exhaustive list of such actions which could lead to such an investigation would be:

- Being verbally abusive to a member of staff.
- Bringing illegal substances or items into Goresbrook School.
- Bringing a weapon or tool which could be used to injure another person in Goresbrook School (including BB guns, etc.)
- The use of racist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic or any other discriminatory language.
- Persistent levels of defiance or aggressive behaviour.
- Persistent bullying.
- A physical assault on another pupil or member of staff.
- Behaviour which may bring the reputation of Goresbrook School into disrepute.
- Sexual relationships of any kind.
- Intentionally setting off Goresbrook School's fire alarm.
- Gambling or any behaviour designed to extort possessions or funds from others.
- Knowingly bringing a trespasser onto Goresbrook School site.
- A significant breach of health and safety.
- Any behaviour which discriminates against the nine characteristics protected under the Equalities Act.



Once the investigation is complete, the senior member of staff investigating the incident will liaise with the Principal and decide on an appropriate and proportionate sanction/s which could include:

- Community service.
- Referral to Goresbrook School's internal reflection room.
- Liaison with outside professional agencies to gain further support.
- Meeting with members of the Local Governing Body.
- Fixed-term exclusion
- Permanent exclusion.

All incidents of this nature will lead to a parent/carer reintegration meeting with a relevant member of staff, where additional support and intervention strategies can be discussed and agreed upon. The SENDCO will be involved for all children with an EHCP and one of the SENDCO team for all children on SEN Support.

Pupils will also be commended for acts of positive behaviour that are to be celebrated and recognised at Goresbrook School. These behaviours can range from simple acts of kindness to hard work being demonstrated in and out of lessons over a period of time. Pupils are also encouraged to demonstrate positive behaviours beyond Goresbrook School and support the local community through their actions and attitudes. Pupil rewards at Goresbrook School are extensive and include Distance Travelled Acknowledgements, Success Signposts each week, end of term / year reward trips and graduation events.

3.1 Prohibited Items / Searching Pupils

The following items are banned from Goresbrook School premises and school visits:

- Any item that could be used with the intention of causing harm
- Alcohol / drugs
- Fireworks
- Cigarettes or any smoking paraphernalia including e-cigarettes or shisha-type devices
- Stink bombs / water bombs
- Mobile phones or headphones (immediately confiscated for five school days)
- Electronic devices which can be heard or are visible
- Aerosols
- Bandanas, masks or anything which could be utilised to conceal identity
- Hooded sweatshirts
- Jewellery
- Make-up
- Nail varnish
- Chewing gum
- Any paraphernalia designed to promote racist or derogatory themes or ideals, including extremist propaganda or pornography of any kind.

Items such as the above (this is not an exhaustive list) will immediately be confiscated by a member of staff and lead to an appropriate sanction dependent on the level of severity. Parents/carers will also be informed to ensure effective lines of communication are maintained.

3.2 The law relating to searches

Goresbrook school has the statutory power to undertake a search of a pupil or their possessions (without their consent) if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil may be carrying a dangerous or banned substance or object e.g. a weapon or illegal drug, or any other item on the prohibited items list above which might pose a serious risk to the safety of that pupil and/or others.

The specific items which can be searched for without consent are specified on page 11 of the DFE's Behaviour and Discipline in Schools Guidance, with more detailed information provided in Screening, Searching and Confiscation – advice for Headteachers, staff and governing bodies.

Only the Principal or a member of school staff officially authorised by the Principal, can undertake the search of a pupil, and there must be a witness (also a staff member). The person carrying out the search should be the same sex as the pupil being searched, as, ideally should be the witness. There is a limited exception to this rule (where a search can be carried out on a pupil of the opposite sex and / or without a witness) only where the Principal or designated member of staff reasonably believes there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to the person if the search is not conducted immediately and where it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff.

Any searches of a pupil's own person or of their possessions will be carried out with due consideration for the pupil's personal dignity, health and safety, Goresbrook School's Safeguarding policy, United Learning staff-pupil relations guidance, and Goresbrook School's own Equal Opportunities policy. Any such searches must always be viewed as a last resort, when other methods of investigation and communication have failed and only if absolutely necessary, such as in extreme situations where leaving a pupil with such a suspected item could pose risks to others (or to that pupil). It is hoped that in the great majority of instances, there will be no need for a search to be carried out. Any staff authorised to carry out searches must have had sufficient training to enable them to carry out their responsibilities.

There may be rare instances where a child with a specific SEND diagnosis requires a different approach. For example, the school may refrain from searching, unless in an emergency, if a child is tactile defensive or has a sensory sensitivity which means that a search may significantly escalate a situation. In such circumstance, the school would deal with the situation in a different way, bespoke to the needs of the child to ensure all students remained safe. Searches without Consent

3.3 Pupils may be searched for the following items without their consent and without the consent of their parents/carers:

- Knives or weapons
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs stolen items
- Tobacco and cigarette papers
- Fireworks
- Pornographic images
- Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used: i) to commit an offence, ii) to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil).



Members of staff at Goresbrook School can use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search for knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco and cigarette papers, fireworks, pornographic images or articles that have been or could be used to commit an offence or cause harm. Such force cannot be used to search for items that are not on the list above. However physical resistance by a pupil to a search for those latter items can itself be subject to behavioural sanctions.

Before a member of staff carries out a search without consent, the member of staff must reasonably suspect that the pupil has the prohibited item in his/her possession. Only staff members authorised by the Principal may carry out searches without consent.

Where an item prohibited in the behaviour policy is seized as the result of a search and it is an electronic device such as a mobile phone, the member of staff who seized the item may inspect the data on it, if he/she thinks that there is a good reason to do so. For this purpose, the member of staff has a good reason if he/she reasonably suspects that the data or file on the device in question has been or could be used to cause harm, to disrupt teaching or break Goresbrook School rules. Goresbrook School also reserves the right to inspect data on any electronic device which is confiscated by a member of staff. Goresbrook School is entitled to retain the device if it contains material which has been or could be used to cause harm to disrupt teaching or break Goresbrook School rules. School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search and can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline. When deciding what to do with a prohibited item, Goresbrook School will act in line with statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education.

3.4 Searches with consent

Goresbrook School may search pupils with their consent for any item. A pupil's possessions can only be searched in the presence of the pupil and another member of staff, except where there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not conducted immediately and where it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff.

Extent of search

The person conducting the search may not require the pupil to remove any clothing other than outer clothing. 'Outer clothing' means clothing that is not worn next to the skin or immediately over a garment that is being worn as underwear but 'outer clothing' includes hats; shoes; boots; gloves and scarves. 'Possessions' means any goods over which the pupil has or appears to have control – this includes bags, lockers and desks. It is a condition of having a locker in Goresbrook School that the pupil gives their consent to it being searched. Any formal complaints about searches should be made in accordance with Goresbrook School's latest complaints policy.

3.5 Confiscation of articles

School staff have the power to confiscate property from pupils under their general right to discipline contained in s91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Disposal or retention of articles confiscated from pupils

3.6 Goresbrook School will follow the Department for Education guidance 'Screening Searching and Confiscation –advice for headteachers, staff and governing bodies'

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>) in deciding what to do with confiscated items.



3.7 Drugs

Goresbrook School operates a zero-tolerance policy on drugs for the health and safety of all staff, pupils and visitors. Goresbrook School policy on drugs applies to all school and school-related activities whether on or off site. This includes the journey to and from Goresbrook School. The word 'drugs' used in this policy does not just mean illegal drugs. It extends to alcohol, tobacco products, volatile substances and legal highs. Over the counter and prescription medicines are dealt with in the medical treatment section of this policy.

Goresbrook School will take into account guidance issued by the Department for Education. Goresbrook School will monitor and deal with any drugs issues promptly and be proactive in trying to prevent any future drugs incidents. Pupils will receive drugs education as part of the PSHE programme and Goresbrook School will also involve outside agencies such as drugs education charities. Any incidents will be reported to the governors and United Learning Regional Director for their consideration.

Any pupil found to be involved in a drugs-related incident will be disciplined in accordance with Goresbrook School's behaviour policy. The sanction is likely to include permanent or fixed term exclusion from Goresbrook School. Dealing illegal drugs will, except in exceptional circumstances, lead to permanent exclusion. Using illegal drugs will, except in exceptional circumstances, lead to exclusion which may be permanent. This distinction between dealing and using is particularly important (using is for that pupil's use only found with the illegal drugs, dealing is classed as the intention to supply others with illegal drugs both for profit and non-profit purposes). Sometimes, it will also be necessary to involve the police. Goresbrook School will discuss this and take advice as necessary.

3.8 Confiscation of drugs

Any drugs found will be confiscated by staff who will dispose of them in accordance with guidance issued by the Department for Education. Similarly, any drugs-related paraphernalia such as needles will be disposed of in a prudent manner. Goresbrook School may carry out searches for drugs in accordance with this policy. Usually Goresbrook School will inform parents/carers when their child has been found to be involved with drugs, but where there are potential safeguarding issues Goresbrook School must act in the best interests of the child which may mean a decision not to inform parents/carers. Such a decision will be taken very seriously and usually with the benefit of legal advice.

4.1 Sanctions

Detentions (re-routings)

Detentions (re-routings) are set for a number of reasons which may include:

- Lateness to Goresbrook School
- Disruption to lessons
- Lack of equipment / no kit
- Talking during line-up, silent transition or assembly
- Anti-social behaviour of any kind in or around Goresbrook School site
- Poor uniform or appearance
- Consumption of food around Goresbrook School site / chewing gum.

These detentions are run centrally each day and are 30 minutes in length. Students can sit up to 2 re-routings a day. Parents and carers will be informed of such detentions on the Arbor app.



The permitted times for detentions at Goresbrook School are:

- Any school day when the pupil does not have permission to be absent, i.e teacher training days.

Goresbrook School will make reasonable adjustments for the thresholds outlined above for accumulating behaviour referral points as we recognise pupils' needs are very different and may be due to an underlying or diagnosed special educational need / disability relating to learning, communication, interaction or social, emotional and health needs. In these cases, Goresbrook School's SENDCO and inclusion team will be involved throughout in trying to ensure the pupil's needs are being met whilst still adhering to the high standards the school sets. This process of reasonable adjustment is 'fluid' and will be ever-changing depending on the level of pupil need and in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.

4.2 Goresbrook School Behaviour Model

At Goresbrook School we recognise the importance of providing a learning environment which is both engaging and conducive to learning. It is our firm belief that all pupils deserve disruption-free learning in their classes, to ensure that all subject content can be delivered in the most effective methods by our teaching staff and that pupils are encouraged to have ambitious academic aspirations of themselves.

Pupils who fail to meet clear, consistent and reasonable classroom expectations will be issued a warning. If there is another instance of this behaviour, they will be issued a re-routing. These are logged by the class teacher directly onto the Arbor App. If a student disturbs a lesson again after their re-routing, they will be sent to Navigation.

Parents/carers will be contacted by the Head of Year at Goresbrook School to inform them that their child will be in Navigation.

In any whole-school based behaviour system it is important for all stakeholders to recognise the importance of making reasonable adjustments for pupils who may be unable to comply with the rules and expectations set out above for very legitimate reasons. Goresbrook School would seek to make reasonable adjustments for pupils who have a clear, diagnosed and underlying special educational need / disability as well as pupils who have identified additional needs which require SEND / pastoral support, which makes reaching the expected standard of behaviour consistently challenging.

For those identified pupils a number of strategies may be employed to try and ensure ongoing success at Goresbrook School (the list below is not exhaustive, but an indication of the reasonable adjustments Goresbrook School is able to implement):

- An on-call email can be issued by the relevant member of staff, prior to a student being removed from the lesson, which will allow a member of SLT or pastoral member of staff to attend the lesson to support the student to make positive choices and prevent the student from attending Navigation
- An on call can be issued by the relevant member of staff which will allow a member of the Pastoral Support Team to escort the student to Navigation providing them with an opportunity beforehand to discuss the incident
- Support from the inclusion team, removing the student from Navigation to work under the supervision and guidance of inclusion trained staff in the inclusion base (Compass Room).
- On a needs basis, and at the discretion of inclusion- trained staff, small group support would be available to these pupils who access the inclusion base to ensure their needs are best met whilst not in mainstream lessons

Pupils who accumulate 3 fixed term exclusion or 5 removals in one school term will be considered for a Behaviour Support Plan. This will include:

- A meeting with the HOY/Assistant Principal to review behaviour and attitude across all subjects
- A meeting with the Pastoral Support Assistant assigned to the relevant year group to ascertain whether a Behaviour Support Plan would be beneficial (four week period)
- A review at the end of the four week period to assess the impact
- A referral to relevant organisations that provide pastoral support. This is particularly important for any pupils who may require reasonable adjustments to be made to their provision
- A referral to the inclusion team to undertake any relevant testing that may indicate an undiagnosed need which would lead to reasonable adjustments and additional support before offered by the school

4.3 Bullying

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. It may involve an imbalance of power between the perpetrator and the victim. Bullying will not be tolerated at Goresbrook School. Pupils who feel they are being bullied either in or outside Goresbrook School can report it to any member of staff. This also applies to parents/carers who are encouraged to report any incidents of bullying to Goresbrook School where a thorough investigation will take place. Any pupil seen to be the perpetrator of bullying (as defined by the definition above) will be sanctioned according to the behaviour and anti-bullying policy at Goresbrook School.

4.4 Social Media

This applies to all forms of social media and the use of social media for both school purposes and personal use that may affect Goresbrook School, pupils or staff in any way. All staff are aware of the dangers of social media and pupils; parents/carers can report any concerns they have to any member of staff who will pass it onto a Head of Year or senior member of staff at Goresbrook School.

Instances of prohibited use are listed below (this is not an exhaustive list) and will lead to appropriate pupil sanctions:

- Damage to Goresbrook School or its reputation even indirectly
- Use that may defame school staff or any third party
- Use that may harass, bully or unlawfully discriminate against staff, other pupils or third parties
- False or misleading statements
- Use that impersonates staff, other pupils or third parties expressing opinions on Goresbrook School's behalf using a school logos or trademarks.

In line with government guidance relating to the Prevent Duty, children must be kept safe from terrorist and extremist material and suitable filtering within Goresbrook School is in place.

Goresbrook School has a responsible use of social media policy and any breach of that policy on the use of social media will result in disciplinary sanctions.



4.5 Use of reasonable force

Goresbrook School will follow the Department of Education advice 'Use of Reasonable Force – advice for school leaders, staff and governing bodies' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>).

Members of staff at Goresbrook School have the power to use reasonable force to prevent pupils from committing an offence, injuring themselves or others, to prevent damage to property and to maintain discipline. The use of reasonable force will only be used when absolutely necessary and as a last resort. Where the use of force has been used more than once with a particular child it starts to become a foreseeable risk and therefore requires planning to reduce the chances of it being used again. Where restrictive physical intervention has been used more than once with a particular child, Goresbrook School will write a positive handling plan (an annex to the Behaviour Plan) and share this with the parents.

5.1 Rewards

At the heart of any successful behavioural policy there has to be a system that recognises, reinforces and rewards positive behaviour and achievement. At Goresbrook School we reward and acknowledge student achievement through the issuing of Distance Travelled Acknowledgements (DTA's). Pupils can be awarded DTA's for a number of different reasons:

- Excellent classwork
- Homework of a consistently high standard
- Improved attainment
- Positive progress
- Excellent attitude to learning
- Services to the school community
- Services to the wider community
- Random and planned acts of kindness to another individual
- Full and outstanding participation in school-based events
- Politeness, courtesy and good manners
- A positive role model for others
- Continuous improvement across all aspects of the school.

All school staff can award these to any pupil throughout the course of Goresbrook School day. Accumulation of Distance Travelled Acknowledgements will result in pupils being rewarded badges, certificates, letters home, special lunches/rewards trips and nominal prizes each term. We are an school committed to rewarding at all levels as a means of celebrating achievement across the entire community. All reward systems will be kept under review to ensure that no group of pupils is significantly under-represented or disadvantaged by the reward criteria.

6.1 Exclusions and suspension

At Goresbrook School we believe that learning is the most important reason for being at school and that every child deserves disruption-free learning. In order to support this ethos, it may be necessary to consider exclusion when all other strategies have been exhausted, as a consequence of behaviour which may threaten these core principles.



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Permanent exclusion

1. Investigation
2. The Principal's Decision
3. Notification
4. The Governors' Behaviour Committee and the Appeal Process
5. Informing parents / carers
6. Behaviour Outside Goresbrook School Gates

1 Guidance framework

Goresbrook School Exclusion Policy is written in line with the following areas of guidance:

- Exclusions – DfE Guidance
- United Learning Exclusions Policy
- 2010 Equalities Act
- SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25

2 Guidance framework

- Goresbrook School Exclusion Policy is written in line with the following areas of guidance:
- Exclusions – DfE Guidance
- United Learning Exclusions Policy
- 2010 Equalities Act
- SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25

3 Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with 2. Policy implementation and 4.2 Behaviour expectations.



Principles

- 3.1 Goresbrook School is a learning institution which aims to provide positive life chances for all of its pupils. We view exclusion as a last resort when all other possible methods of managing pupil behaviour have been exhausted and all reasonable adjustments made. The decision to exclude is never taken lightly and careful consideration is taken of all the facts and the surrounding circumstances before reaching a decision to exclude. The only person able to exclude is the Principal or in the absence of the Principal, the next most senior member of staff on site.
- 3.2 We recognise the detrimental impact on both the education and well-being of pupils and their families. We also recognise the impact of social exclusion, which can result from fixed-term or permanent exclusion of a pupil and will try hard to avoid this.
- 3.3 Permanent exclusion is an extremely serious step to take and has a significant impact on the ability of a pupil to access education in the future. It is only used where it is unavoidable and where every possible appropriate alternative has been considered. We are committed to using alternatives to permanent exclusion such as managed moves and alternative provision where appropriate.
- 3.4 We take account of the Equality Act and our duty not to discriminate against pupils for any reason
- 3.5 We also take account of our statutory duties in relation to SEND and the reasonable adjustments the school makes to ensure all pupils' needs are met to the best of Goresbrook School's ability.
- 3.6 We aim to ensure parents and carers are kept up to date and suitably informed at all times.

4 The decision to exclude

- 4.1 The decision to exclude is made solely by the Principal, or the Vice Principal in his absence.
- 4.2 There are five circumstances where a pupil may be required to leave Goresbrook School site with the authorisation of the Principal / Vice Principal:
 - (a) where a decision has been made to exclude.
 - (b) where a pupil has committed a serious criminal offence outside the jurisdiction of Goresbrook School and it is determined by the Principal or Vice Principal that it is in the interests of the community for the pupil to be educated off-site while investigations take place. (This is not necessarily an exclusion although fixed term exclusion may be deemed appropriate by the Principal in such circumstances.)
 - (c) where, for medical reasons (such as contagion, risk to an unborn child), the presence of a pupil represents a serious risk to the health or safety of other pupils or staff. This not an exclusion.
 - (d) if a pupil is given permission by the Principal or Vice Principal to leave the premises briefly to remedy a breach of Goresbrook School rules on appearance or uniform. This should be for no longer than is necessary to remedy the breach and is not an exclusion but an authorised absence.
 - (e) where there is good reason to believe that a pupil is carrying an item which is not allowed onto the site such as an illegal substance or an offensive weapon and they refuse to be screened. In this circumstance the pupil can be refused entry. This is not an exclusion but an unauthorised absence in the first instance, which could lead to exclusion following a full investigation.
- 4.3 The decision to exclude a pupil is not taken lightly and the Principal or Vice Principal will:
 - Ensure that a thorough investigation has been carried out
 - Consider all the evidence available to support the allegations



- Allow and encourage the pupil to give their version of events (with appropriate support to do so when needed)
- Keep a written record of the actions taken including the signed statements of witnesses
- Be confident that the procedures detailed later in this policy have been carried out
- Ensure SEND expert advice has been taken into account, with appropriate and reasonable adjustment made if deemed appropriate
- Ensure that parents/carers have been kept informed throughout the process and consulted where appropriate.

4.4 The standard of proof applied when deciding to exclude is 'balance of probabilities'. The more serious the allegation, the more convincing the evidence substantiating the allegation needs to be.

4.5 Exclusion will not be used as a consequence for the following:

- Minor incidents such as a failure to complete homework
- Poor academic performance
- Lateness or external truancy (failing to attend school site)
- Breaches of school rules on uniform or appearance except where these are persistent or in open defiance of such rules
- As a punishment for the behaviour of a parent / carer.

4.6 Once the decision has been made to exclude, a pupil will only be sent home once contact has been made with parents/carers and where it is clear that the pupil will be returning to a place of safety. Work will be provided and either sent with the pupil or arrangements made for collection.

5. Fixed-term Exclusion (Level 1: Fewer than 15 school days in any term / Level 2: 15 school days or more during term)

5.1 The decision to exclude a pupil for a fixed term may be taken in response to breaches of Goresbrook School's behaviour for learning policy.

5.2 Examples of behaviour that may lead to a fixed-term exclusion include the following:

- Verbal abuse of staff or pupils
- Physical abuse of staff or pupils
- Indecent behaviour
- Damage to property
- Misuse of illegal drugs or other substances
- Theft
- Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff
- Sexual abuse or assault
- Carrying and / or supplying an illegal substance
- Carrying an offensive weapon* or banned item
- Arson
- Persistent poor behaviour contrary to acceptable behaviour outlined in the school behaviour policy (breakdown of discipline)
- Bullying, including cyber-bullying.



- A weapon is defined as any item made or adapted for causing injury.

This is not an exhaustive list and there may be other examples of behaviour where the Principal or Vice Principal judges that exclusion is an appropriate sanction. Where a pupil is suspected of carrying an offensive weapon, or misusing / carrying / supplying an illegal substance, or being part of a group involved in such activity but the evidence is not sufficient, they will be given the benefit of the doubt on the first occasion. If there is a repeat of such concern they will run the risk of exclusion. Exclusion will always be applied for the shortest time deemed possible as Goresbrook School recognises the impact missed days has on the long-term educational progress of the pupil/s involved. The Principal may exclude a pupil for one or more fixed periods which do not exceed a total of 45 school days in any one school year. During a fixed-term exclusion of 5 or fewer days, work will be set by Goresbrook School for the pupil to complete at home. This work should be returned completed at the end of the exclusion for marking.

For an exclusion of longer than 5 days, Goresbrook School will arrange full-time alternative educational provision from the sixth day of exclusion.

- 5.3 Before the end of any fixed-term exclusion, parents / carers will be invited to attend a reintegration meeting at Goresbrook School with their son/daughter. The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that the pupil understands the reason for the exclusion and is committed to preventing the behaviour that led to the exclusion from being repeated. Goresbrook School will consider all further support if needed to help the pupil, including referral to the behavioural/pastoral support team within Goresbrook School for a behaviour support programme / positive intervention or to external agencies if appropriate.
- 5.4 During the first five days of any exclusion, the parents of an excluded pupil must ensure that they are not present in a public place during normal school hours without reasonable justification, whether with or without a parent / carer. Failure to comply with this is an offence for which a fixed penalty notice can be issued.
- 5.5 Repeated use of fixed-term exclusion for children with an EHCP (and potentially those on SEN Support, especially those undergoing statutory assessment and likely to get an EHCP), could be considered ineffective or failing to meet a child's needs. Goresbrook School will ensure the SENCO is involved as part of a behaviour intervention and planning process to elicit different approaches to improving the child's behaviour. This may involve advice from colleagues and specialists such as an educational psychologist, speech and language therapist etc.

6. Permanent Exclusion (Level 3 Exclusion)

- 6.1 Permanent exclusion is an extremely rare sanction at Goresbrook School and always avoided wherever possible. The decision to permanently exclude is taken only:
- (a) in response to serious breaches to Goresbrook School behaviour for learning policy
 - (b) if allowing the pupil to remain would seriously harm the education or welfare of that pupil or others at Goresbrook School.
- 6.2 A pupil may be permanently excluded where there have been repeated breaches of the behaviour for learning policy for which a range of consequences and strategies have been applied without success. It is an acknowledgement that Goresbrook School has exhausted all available strategies for dealing with the pupil and is a last resort.



6.3 There may be exceptional circumstances where, in the judgement of the Principal, it is appropriate to permanently exclude a pupil for a first or 'one-off' offence. These might include:

- Serious actual or threatened violence against another pupil or a member of staff
- Sexual abuse or assault
- Serious bullying, including cyber-bullying
- possession of an illegal substance and/or supplying an illegal substance carrying an offensive weapon.

Again this is not an exhaustive list and there may be other examples of behaviour where the Principal judges that a permanent exclusion is an appropriate sanction for a first or 'one off' offence.

6.4 Goresbrook School operates a zero tolerance approach to the carrying of offensive weapons and the carrying and supplying of illegal substances. This is communicated clearly to pupils in assemblies and in the pupil planner.

6.5 Any pupil who brings an offensive weapon or a banned item onto site, or who brings and/or supplies an illegal substance or banned item on site will be permanently excluded. A pupil found in possession of these items on site also runs the risk of permanent exclusion.

6.6 Wherever possible, the Principal will meet with the parent/s and pupil before reaching a decision to permanently exclude a pupil from Goresbrook School.

7. Investigation

7.1 Any investigation of the incident will be carried out in accordance with DFE guidance. The student at risk of exclusion will be given the opportunity to have his / her say wherever possible.

7.2 Each case will be judged on the facts and the context taking into account:

- The degree of severity of the offence
- The likelihood of re-occurrence
- The student's previous behavioural record
- Contributory factors (e.g. recent bereavement, mental health issues, bullying, special educational needs and disabilities, harassment)
- Support provided
- The wider Behaviour Policy, SEND Policy and Equality Law obligations.

8. Principal's Decision

The decision to exclude will be made after a review of the evidence available (including that gathered during any investigation) and will be on the balance of probabilities – i.e. is it more probable than not that the accused acted as alleged – and in response to a serious or persistent breach of the school's behaviour policy, and where allowing the student to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the student or others in the school.



9. Notification

Once a decision to exclude has been made, parents will be contacted at the earliest opportunity, by telephone if possible. See section 6.8 for more information.

10. Governors' Behaviour Committee and the Appeal Process

- a. Goresbrook School has a Local Governing Body (LGB) which has responsibility for reviewing decisions in relation to exclusions. The Behaviour Committee consists of at least 3 members of the LGB, all of whom should be involved in reviewing Level 2 and 3 exclusions. For Level 1 exclusions

the Behaviour Committee need not meet in person and decisions can be delegated to one member of the Committee.

- b. The Behaviour Committee of the Governing Body will automatically review any exclusion which results in a pupil being excluded for more than 15 school days in any term, or any permanent exclusion.
- c. The Behaviour Committee will automatically review all fixed-term exclusions of children with EHCPs where this is the second or subsequent exclusion for that child during their time in the school (not just in a given academic year).
- d. Parents / carers have the right to appeal the decision to exclude their son/daughter. This process is common across United Learning and is different for different levels of exclusion.
- e. Full details of how these meetings operate can be found in the following appendices and also within the DFE Guidance (2012) and the United Learning Exclusion Policy – Academies (2018) but the summary is contained below.

Level 1 exclusion (less than 15 days)

A parent / carer may request that the Behaviour Committee review the process within 50 school days of receiving notice of the exclusion. The request should be made in writing and should set out the question(s) which they wish the Behaviour Committee to consider. The committee will respond in writing within 15 school days.

The Committee will automatically review all fixed-term exclusions of children with EHCPs where this is the second or subsequent exclusion for that child during their time in the school (not just in a given academic year).

Level 2 exclusion (more than 15 days fixed-term or where the exclusion would result in a pupil missing a public examination or national curriculum test)

Principal meets with parents to discuss exclusion. Behaviour Committee meets to review the exclusion within 15 days of receiving notice of the exclusion.

Level 3 exclusion (permanent)

The investigating officer presents their findings to the Principal in regard to the alleged incident that has taken place. The Principal meets with parents/carers to discuss having completed the process fully and having consulted with others including the SEND expert if appropriate. If the decision is made to permanently exclude the pupil, parents/carers will be informed by the Principal both verbally and in writing.

Following the Principal's decision to permanently exclude, the Behaviour Committee meets to review the decision within 15 school days of receiving notice of the exclusion.



- f. If the Behaviour Committee upholds the Principal's decision to permanently exclude, parents/carers may appeal to an Independent Review Panel. In addition, the Principal must consult with the Regional Director of United Learning and the Chair of the LGB (or his/her nominated Deputy as delegated) before the decision is implemented.
- g. An Independent Review Panel will consist of 3 people and will be chaired by a lay member and two independent members, one with governance experience, the other with headship experience. This panel will decide whether to uphold the decision to exclude a pupil.
- h. The Independent Review Panel can either uphold the decision to exclude the pupil or recommend that Goresbrook School reconsiders the matter. They cannot, however, direct the reinstatement of the pupil.
- i. Parents/carers have a legal right to bring an Equality Act claim for discrimination to the First Tier Tribunal (for disability discrimination) or to the County Court (for other forms of discrimination).

11. Informing parents / carers

- Following any decision to exclude, the Principal must inform parents/carers, putting the decision to exclude in writing and stating the date the exclusion takes effect.

The letter must also explain:

- The circumstances leading up to the decision to exclude
- Why the Principal decided to exclude the pupil
- If relevant, what steps were taken to try and avoid the exclusion, details of any relevant previous warnings, fixed period exclusions or other disciplinary measures taken before the present incident
- The arrangements for enabling the pupil to continue his/her education including setting and marking the pupil's work
- The parent's right to see and have a copy of their child's record
- The parent's responsibilities to ensure their child is not in a public place in school hours during the first five days of an exclusion
- If the exclusion is for a fixed period, the length of the exclusion and the date and the time the pupil should return to Goresbrook School
- The arrangements for a parent interview at the end of the exclusion to discuss the process of reintegration
- For Level 2 and Level 3 exclusions, the parent's right to appeal to the Independent Appeals Panel and the appropriate timescales and mechanism for that to happen as well as the fact that the governors will meet to review the decision
- For Level 1 exclusions, that if parents are concerned about the way in which the exclusion was managed, they may write to the Behaviour Committee to ask it to review the process. This may be done by just one member of the Committee. The Committee cannot overturn the decision to exclude but may put a note on file.

12. Behaviour outside Goresbrook School gates

12.1 Our exclusion and behaviour policy covers behaviour not only within Goresbrook School but outside Goresbrook School. We will sanction pupils, up to and including Permanent Exclusion, for any behaviour which contravenes our policies when a pupil is:

- Taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity
- Travelling to or from Goresbrook School



Goresbrook School

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- Wearing our school uniform, or in some other way identifiable as a Goresbrook School Pupil or for behaviour which at any time:
- Could have repercussions for the running of Goresbrook School, or
- Poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public, or
- Could adversely affect the reputation of Goresbrook School.

12.2 Even where the conditions above do not apply, the behaviour policy can extend to any misbehaviour which could have repercussions for the orderly running of Goresbrook School, pose a threat to another pupil, or member of the public or could adversely affect the reputation of Goresbrook School.