



Voluntary & Lunchtime Exclusions



Exclusions...

What do they mean?

Voluntary Exclusion - what does this mean?

Voluntary exclusion is where schools ask parents/carers to keep their child at home as a way of dealing with behavioural difficulties. This is not good practice and denies pupils their rights to an education and denies both parents and pupils the right to appeal against this form of exclusion. Local Authorities will consider appropriate measures where schools are found to be using voluntary exclusion.

What can parents/carers do?

- Parents/Carers sometimes feel pressurised to take their child out of school
- If parents are asked to keep a pupil at home, they should ask the school to make it official i.e. ask the Head Teacher to put it in writing
- Ask the school for a meeting to discuss the problems to see if something can be done e.g. change of class, extra support. Parents and carers must remember that it is an offence to fail to secure regular schooling for a child and parents may be at risk of prosecution

Lunchtime Exclusion

Lunchtime exclusion should be a short-term option only. Lunchtime exclusion should be recorded as a quarter of a school day. If lunchtime exclusions add up to more than 5 whole days within the same term, parents/carers will be entitled to make representations to the Pupil Disciplinary Committee. The School's Governing Body's Pupil Discipline Committee (PDC) meets to review the decision to exclude a pupil. It can decide either to confirm the exclusion or to reinstate the pupil. If a pupil is in receipt of free school meals they must have that meal before they leave the school premises, or be provided with a packed lunch that can be eaten off site. It may be due to a special educational need or disability that a pupil has problems during break and lunchtimes. Arranging a meeting with the school to discuss options is often beneficial.

Exclusion from school trips

Sometimes children are not allowed to go on school trips, take part in activities off the school premises or take part in activities in school.

The Special Educational Needs Framework exists to identify and meet additional needs. The Equalities Act strengthens the framework and makes it unlawful to discriminate against disabled pupils and promotes equality of opportunity. The definition of a disabled pupil is broad and may include a wide range of impairments. If a school treats a disabled pupil less favourably because of the disability without justification, or a reason that is both material and substantial, they may be breaking the law.

If you feel that your child is being discriminated against in this way SNAP Cymru can support you in your discussions with the school. Parents can in certain instances make a claim to the tribunal (SENTW) about disability discrimination in Welsh schools. This might be for instance where a disabled pupil has been treated less favourably because of their disability, without justification.

Contact

www.wales.gov.uk/sentwsub/home/parent

or Helpline: 01597 829800 for more information.

If you are concerned over exclusions or would like free, independent information, advice or support, contact:

Helpline: 0808 801 0608

www.snapcymru.org

SNAP Cymru, 10 Coopers Yard,
Curran Road, Cardiff CF10 5NB

Tel: 029 2038 4868 Fax: 029 2034 8998



SQM

