

Suspensions & Permanent Exclusions Advice For Schools and Professionals Working With Looked After Children

Enfield Council is committed to ensuring that every looked after child has the very best opportunity to succeed in their learning. This is a brief guide to the support, provision and responsibilities around suspensions and permanent exclusions. It should be read in conjunction with the more extended 'Preventing the Suspension of Children in Care Policy, Practice and Procedure 2022-2023' document.

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What the Virtual School require from schools and professionals working with LAC

- Working knowledge of the statutory guidance governing [suspensions and permanent exclusions](#).
- Timely information sharing about LACs at risk of suspension / permanent exclusion
- Prompt (same day) notification of the intention to suspend or exclude.
- Copies of relevant documentation, including the pastoral support plan.
- Inclusion of VS colleagues in re-integration meetings.
- Accurate record of suspensions entered onto the online PEP document.
- Reasonable adjustments to be made to accommodate LAC with SEN needs.
- Practise a 'trauma informed' approach to managing the behaviour of LAC (see note on training and guidance below).
- Make use of the speech and language tool provided by the VS to screen all LAC

What schools and professionals working with LAC can expect from the Virtual School

- Face-to-face tuition, VS funded, through our tuition partners for LAC during periods of absence due to suspension.
- Attendance at re-integration meetings to support school strategies and responses.
- Access to therapeutic mentoring provision (Precious Moments) for LAC who are suspended or at risk of suspension / permanent exclusion (see details below).
- School staff training on child-on-child abuse and Brooks Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool.
- Access to 'trauma informed practice training for school staff (see note on training and guidance below)
- Informed guidance on the range of multi-agency support on offer to support schools (see below).
- Additional funding to support suspension / exclusion prevention strategies. This can be discussed with the VSH and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Resources to Support Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Prevention

- Precious Moments: A course of 10 - 20 hours of one-to-one therapeutic mentoring to help young people understand and their own behaviours and develop strategies to change these behaviours. Referral forms are provided by the Virtual School team.
- 'Trauma Informed Practice' training for school staff [\(link to be provided by Sally\)](#)
- Speech and Language Screening Tools for [Primary](#) and [Secondary](#) Years, support staff in identifying young people who may be struggling to develop their speech, language and communication skills.
- Support and guidance from Enfield Behaviour Support Service
The [Behaviour Support Service](#) is a multi-disciplinary team working in partnership with schools and other services in Enfield supporting inclusion of children experiencing social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) difficulties.
- 'Ordinarily Available Provision' refers to the support that all Enfield schools, early years and post 16 settings should be able to provide for children/young people, including those with SEND, from within their own resources.
- [Enfield's Local Offer](#) provides help and support to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and their families. They offer a wide range of services for parents and carers, as well as young people who want to live as independently as possible.
- The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS within HEART) works to improve the mental health and well-being of children in care and, with their social workers and foster carers, to contribute to care planning, placement stability and the prevention of placement breakdown; particularly for children in transition (i.e., coming into care, in short-term placement, between fostering and permanency). We offer consultation to the professional network and foster carers, assessment, and therapy (individual or family).
- [Intervention directory](#) offers a list of services that offer support to children/young people, schools, families, communities, and partners.