

Position statement – Exclusions from Haringey Schools

Introduction

1. Exclusion rates in Haringey schools remain low when compared to statistical neighbours. The use of exclusions by schools in Haringey is reserved for the most serious incidents.
2. Exclusions can be categorised into four types:
 - exclusion inside the school where a young person still attends the school but is supported in whole or in part in a separate setting with support to address behaviour or anger management. This is commonly called internal seclusion;
 - fixed-term exclusion for less than 15 days total in a school year;
 - fixed-term exclusion either over 15 school days for a single incident or where the total number of school days in any academic year totals fifteen or more days;
 - permanent exclusion.
3. Schools are required to return data to the local authority in relation to permanent exclusions and exclusions of more than fifteen days in any one academic year as the local authority is obliged to make educational provision for such children and young people. Schools are encouraged to return data to the local authority on all other fixed-term exclusions.

Support for schools

4. In order to prevent exclusions and support those at risk of exclusion in Haringey schools, the Behaviour Support Teams (BSTs) identify pupils who are at highest risk of poor life outcomes in order to ensure that resources and support can be targeted appropriately. The Secondary BST works in every Haringey secondary school. The Primary BST provides a service to all primary schools working with individual pupils referred to them and providing training and advice to staff. In addition there are four secondary schools and eight primary schools participating in the Behaviour Improvement Programme (BIP).
5. The Educational Psychology Service provides training and support to a range of schools in the use of SEAL materials for schools and parents as part of the National Primary Strategy. Haringey continues to offer assessment placements at the Pupil Support Centre to assist schools in developing focussed support or provision as an aid to preventing exclusions. This is managed through the Social Inclusion Panel.
6. Provision is made from day 1 of an exclusion from a Haringey BIP school, to minimise the long term impact. Take-up of this provision is greater in Secondary than Primary. From 2005-06, the secondary BIP provision has been co-located alongside the secondary Pupil Support Centre to ensure better follow-up on the first day of referral - which has been identified as a weakness, improve access to specialist curriculum provision for continuity and reintegration and to give access to multi-disciplinary assessment of need. The aim is to better support reintegration to

mainstream through the existing positive links between schools and the PSC to reduce / prevent repeat exclusions.

7. As a consequence of the ever decreasing number of pupils excluded permanently from primary schools, the provision has been transferred under a service level agreement to Risley Primary School. This will also enable provision for the assessment of primary age children with complex SEBD needs to take place in a specialist provision but where mainstream experience is possible as well as controlled reintegration into mainstream.
8. Local authority provision for fixed-term primary exclusions of 15+ days takes place in the Tuition Service.

Reasons for exclusion

9. Larger numbers of pupils are excluded (fixed-term and permanent) from secondary schools than from primaries. The three most common reasons given for exclusions are physical assault of a pupil, verbal abuse of an adult and physical assault of an adult. The least commonly recorded reason was racism.
10. Anecdotal evidence from the Pupil Support Centre and the Tuition Service indicates that pupils permanently excluded from out-borough schools are excluded for lesser 'offences' than their peers excluded from Haringey schools.
11. The reason for fixed-term exclusions is becoming increasingly violence-related.
12. The national figures for the exclusion of pupils with a statement of special educational needs indicate that such a pupil is four times more likely to be excluded than those without and constitute 10.5% of exclusions nationally. The level of permanent exclusions in Haringey for those pupils & students is higher than that national figure. As a local authority we are seeking to address the level of exclusions of pupils with statements of special educational needs by reissuing the guidance and providing additional training to schools on the exclusion process to ensure that pupils with statements at risk of permanent exclusion are subject to a review of their statement prior to action being taken to exclude.

Exclusion information June 2006

13. The 2005-06 data shows a continuing strong downward trend in both permanent and fixed term exclusions with the exception of 2004-05. The result of this reduction in exclusions means that there has been a total of 2,254 additional days of education compared to the same period in 2004-05 for primary and secondary pupils.

Permanent Exclusions:

Year	Total	Secondary	Primary
2003-04	20	18 (0.19%)	2 (0.01%)
2004-05	28	28 (0.26%)	0 (0%)
2005-06	22	19 (0.17%)	3 (0.02%)

14. In 2003-04 Haringey exclusions were below the London and national levels. The average percentage of the school population with permanent exclusions was 0.32% for London and 0.25% in England at Secondary level and for primary the respective figures were 0.32% (London) and 0.25% (England). It is anticipated that this will be the same in 2005-06 (national data not available) as Haringey's exclusions have continued to fall and Haringey continues to sustain and improve low exclusion rates.
15. Primary permanent exclusions were from three schools with a total of two in year 5 from two schools and one in year 6 from the other. All three were for violent assaults, and in one case repeated assaults, against other pupils.

Secondary permanent exclusions by year group:

	2005-06	2004-05
Y7	0	3 (11%)
Y8	2 (10%)	6 (21%)
Y9	5 (26%)	10 (35%)
Y10	6 (31%)	8 (29%)
Y11	6 (31%)	1 (4%)

16. There were eight exclusions for actual assault against a pupil or member of staff, ten for possessing and/or threatening to use an offensive weapon, two for verbal abuse and threatening behaviour and one each for bullying behaviour and drugs/alcohol related incidents.

Fixed term Exclusions:

Year	Total*		Secondary		Primary	
	Incidents	Days	Incidents	Days	Incidents	Days
2003-04	1348	4573	1151	3970	175	534
2004-05	1784	6943	1490	6072	196	650
2005-06	1102	4689	930	4187	151	460

* includes special & PSC

17. There are improved arrangements in schools to deal with pupils who might otherwise be excluded. Evidence indicates that where exclusions occur the reasons are more serious. In 2004-05 the average length of exclusion for primary schools was 3.3 days and for secondary was 4.1 days. In 2005-06 the average length of fixed term exclusion has fallen to 3.0 for Primary age pupils but has risen to 4.5 for secondary.
18. Fixed term exclusions have fallen in Primary and secondary schools. In 2004-05, thirty one Primary schools issued fixed term exclusions and in 2005-06 this number has fallen to twenty eight, with eight schools having a single exclusion during the year. Ten secondary schools had fixed term exclusions in 2004-05 and this has fallen to nine in 2005-06.

19. In Special schools during 2004-05 there was a total of 16 instances of exclusion with a loss of 33 days but this fell in 2005-06 to a total of six instances with a loss of almost half that of the previous year at eighteen days.
20. The Pupil Support Centre (PRU) does issue fixed term exclusions but provides tuition away from the main site during that period. In 2004-05 there were 82 instances of exclusion totalling 188 days, an average of 2.3 days per exclusion (below that for both Primary and Secondary schools). This has fallen dramatically during 2005-06 with only fifteen instances of exclusion totalling a remarkable twenty four days only, giving an average of 1.6 days per exclusion.

Conclusions

21. The data available within the local authority and through the BIP programme provides the means to identify pupils most at risk of school exclusion. A longitudinal study on exclusions from all Haringey schools between September 2001 and February 2005 and the analysis from targeted provision would seem to show that, within primary schools a single exclusion indicates that the child is at risk of further exclusions. In contrast a single exclusion from secondary school is not as strong an indicator of future exclusions.
22. In the secondary school with the highest number of exclusions (21% of total), individuals at risk of permanent exclusion are referred to the Pupil and Family Mediation Officer for support. Of the 28 referrals and cases from parent surgeries and Haringey schools, over 46% (13) are from that targeted school alone.
23. In July 2004 the Government published its Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners which sets out the expectation that groups of schools, colleges and PRUs will take collective responsibility for children who are seriously disruptive and/or have been excluded. This will include arrangements for collaboration between providers and protocols for the admission of children who are hard to place. This was supported by a further paper 'New Ways for Schools and LEAs to Work Together to Manage Excluded Pupils and Those at Risk of Exclusion', published in November 2004. Local authorities are expected to have a protocol that includes the reintegration into mainstream of 'exclupees' in place by September 2007.
24. Haringey already has a process of managing reintegration through the Social Inclusion Panel and a 'Hard to Place' protocol is awaiting final agreement from schools. Consultation paper on the recommendations for schools on exclusions and alternative provision has started, in light of the Five Year Strategy, the Extended Schools Agenda and Building Schools for The Future.