



Admissions and Exclusions Policy

Including EYFS

Beechwood School

1. Introduction

Our policy reflects the DfE guidance, in particular 'School Admissions Code' (DfE, 2021) and 'Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement' (DfE August 2024). This policy should be read in conjunction with the policies listed below:

- Non-discrimination and Inclusion
- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Anti-Bullying
- Behaviour and Discipline
- Complaints

This policy aims to outline the admissions process of our school, as well as provide relevant information to families looking to join. It also outlines exclusions and the process that is followed for both fixed-term and permanent exclusions.

Admissions and exclusions decisions will be made with consideration of safeguarding and attendance data, ensuring joined-up support for pupils. Where an Independent Review Panel is convened, the school will ensure fair access to SEN expertise and offer remote access options where appropriate.

2. Admissions Arrangements

The School is an independent co-educational day and boarding school for students (for senior school only) between the ages of 2 and 18. The School operates on a single form entry system from Nursery to Year Four, two forms in Year Five and one form in Year Six and then up to three forms from Year Seven to Year Thirteen.

The main entry points for admission are into Pre School, Reception, and Year 3, Year Seven and Year 12.

Preschool admissions are first come, first serve, where registrations will be made after a discussion with the family about if the child's needs can be met by the School.

Beechwood School is a gently selective school. Prep and Senior day and boarding admissions will be made based on performance in entrance tests, the impression made during interview / taster day, on references from the prospective student's current school, and previous exam results where appropriate. Typically, we will assess the ability of prospective students in Mathematics, English and invite students for an informal conversation with our Headteacher. This informs us as to the student's current level of achievement; and will help the school and the family make a considered decision as to their registration.

If spaces are currently unavailable, upon receipt of the application/registration form and payment of the registration fee, the student's name will be placed on the waiting list for entry into the correct year. The student's name may be removed from the list at any time at the request of the parents.

In line with the School Admissions Code, the school will ensure that vulnerable children, including those with SEND or in care, are admitted promptly and fairly, particularly during in-year admissions.

3. International Admissions

Beechwood accepts International boarding students from Year 7 and can accept younger students if they are residing with their parents or UK based Guardian. All international students must send copies of their last school reports, and a passport copy before an interview either in person or via Zoom. Students wishing to study a GCSE or A level course should be working at a B1 level of English, this is assessed by the school through interview and our entrance assessments. English as an Additional Language (EAL) will be provided to ensure their English language skills are rapidly developed. For overseas pupils two free lessons of EAL will be given each week but more can be arranged at the parents' expense.

4. Leavers Arrangements

If a child leaves the school, this is recorded on the admissions register.

Where children leave the school, the DSL will ensure safeguarding and child protection files are transferred to the new school or college as soon as possible: within 5 days for an in-year transfer or within the first 5 days of the start of a new term to allow the new school or college to have support in place for when the child arrive. If there are no safeguarding or child protection files for the child, the school will inform the new school of this.

Any other relevant information for the new school will be passed on, including assessment data. For children leaving at the standard exit points, there may be inductions or meetings held with the new school or further education setting (such as in the case of Year Six leavers transferring to Secondary education).

For in-year transfers to new schools, the school will notify the Local Authority (kentinyearadmissions@kent.gov.uk).

Elective Home Education

Many home-educated children have an overwhelmingly positive learning experience. We would expect the parents' decision to home educate to be made with their child's best education at the heart of the decision. However, this is not the case for all, and home education can mean some children are less visible to the services that are there to keep them safe and supported in line with their needs.

If a child's elective home education is deemed unsuitable, the school will notify the local authority, and the child will be classified as missing education (CME) in accordance with Section 436A of the Education Act 1996.

From September 2016 the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 were amended so that schools must inform their LA of all deletions from their admission register when a child is taken off roll.

Where a parent/carer has expressed their intention to remove a child from school with a view to educating at home, we will work together with other professionals to coordinate a meeting with parents/carers where possible. Ideally, this would be before a final decision has been made, to ensure the parents/carers have considered what is in the best interests of each child. This is particularly important where a child has special educational needs or a disability, and/or has a social worker, and/or is otherwise vulnerable. DfE guidance on Elective Home Education (which is primarily for Local Authorities) will also be read and understood by the SLT.

5. Fixed-Term and Permanent Exclusions

The School seeks to provide a disciplined and ordered family community in which education and learning can flourish. When accepting a place, parents agree that their son or daughter should be subject at all times to the School Rules and Regulations in force.

The School will make clear the standards of behaviour and commitment that it expects from students. It will encourage students to adopt positive attitudes and values such as consideration, honesty and respect for others. It will acknowledge and praise students when they reach these standards.

Any breach of good manners or good sense whether at school, on journeys to and from school, at events organised by the School or when representing the School is a breach of School Rules. High standards of behaviour are expected at all times and bullying in any form is unacceptable

The School's Terms and Conditions confer upon the Headteacher the power to impose the sanction of suspension or expulsion on any student for any cause which they consider adequate.

However, any decision to exclude or expel a child from the school must be discussed with a Governor of Alpha Schools before the decision is made.

Suspension may be ordered if a student persists in misdemeanours after warnings or is involved in bullying, anti-social behaviour, theft, lying, bringing prohibited articles or substances to School, repeated truancy from lessons or other serious wrongdoing. This gives the student a chance to consider, if possible, with the help of discussions at home, the possibility that expulsion may subsequently be ordered unless conduct improves.

Expulsion may be ordered in certain circumstances, normally following suspension except in cases of serious misconduct. If this sanction is being considered, both the student and parents will normally be invited to a meeting with the Headteacher. Parents may in some cases be offered the opportunity to withdraw the student. In other cases, the Headteacher may expel the student forthwith. The appropriate procedure to be adopted in any case is entirely at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Parents should be informed that it is now a criminal offence punishable by fixed penalty fine or prosecution of the parents if a student is seen in a public place during normal school hours without reasonable justification, during the first five days of exclusion from state school. Students excluded from an independent school may be apprehended, as it would not be evident to a police officer that the student is not from a state school.

We do not wish to exclude any student from school, but sometimes this may be necessary. The School has therefore adopted the DFE's national standard list of reasons for exclusion and follows their standard guidance in any decision to exclude a student from school.

Exclusions will only be used as a last resort, after all other behaviour management strategies have been exhausted. A 'no exclusion' policy is not adopted, as it may pose safeguarding risks.

[Suspension and permanent exclusion guidance 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842222/suspension-and-permanent-exclusion-guidance-2024.pdf)

Only the Headteacher (or the acting Headteacher) has the power to exclude a student from school. The Headteacher may exclude a student for one or more fixed periods, for up to 45 days in any one school year. In extreme and exceptional circumstances, the Headteacher may exclude a student permanently. It is also possible for the Headteacher to convert a fixed-term exclusion into a permanent exclusion if the circumstances warrant this.

Before any decision to exclude is made, the Headteacher must discuss the matter with a Governor.

If the Headteacher excludes a student, she/he informs the parents immediately, giving reasons for the exclusion. At the same time, the Headteacher makes it clear to the parents that they can, if they wish, appeal against the decision to the School's Directors. The School informs the parents how to make any such appeal.

The Headteacher informs the owner about any permanent exclusion, and about any fixed-term exclusions beyond five days in any one term.

When the Governors meet to consider exclusion, they consider the circumstances in which the student was excluded, consider any representation by parents, and consider whether the student should be reinstated.

If the Governors decide that a student should be reinstated, the Headteacher must comply with this ruling.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

As with all our policies, the school will strive to ensure this policy is effective, follows the relevant guidance, and adheres to the principles of the school. This will be achieved through regular monitoring and evaluation by the Headteacher, who holds the responsibility of this policy. During this review, amendments will be made where necessary and agreed upon with the Proprietor.

Date	Position	Name of Reviewer	Date of Next Review
August 2025	Headteacher	Ms D. Saffer	August 2026
August 2025	Proprietor	Mr A. Khan	August 2026