



**CITY OF LONDON
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

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EXCLUSIONS POLICY

Policy last reviewed by:	Susannah Gilham
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Approved by:	Board of Governors
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This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- The Preparatory Department Parents Handbook
- The Senior School Parents Handbook
- Code of Conduct
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- PSHCEE Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Terms and Conditions

This policy is a summary of long-standing procedures which are reflected in the School's Mission Statement and Values and in the Parents' and Prep Parents' Handbooks.

1. Context

CLSG is an academic school, which seeks to provide an atmosphere in which every pupil is able to achieve their maximum potential. It is a school which seeks to support and to develop the whole person and which recognises that pupils will achieve their best academically if they are provided with the opportunity to take part in the widest possible range of activities, which contribute to the development of confidence and self-esteem. The school also recognises that pupils will only achieve their best in an orderly and purposeful atmosphere, where they feel known, safe, valued and respected.

The school can only achieve its educational objectives within an orderly framework, where clear boundaries of acceptable behaviour and mutual respect are established. The expected standard of behaviour is clearly laid out in the Parents' Handbook, which is also summarised in pupil planners.

The School seeks to reward and to encourage positive behaviour. To this end, a system of rewards and sanctions is in operation, as set out in the school's Behaviour Policy.

When necessary, sanctions are taken against pupils who fail to behave in an appropriate manner.

These sanctions are always intended to be proportionate and fair. They include

- Loss of privileges – particularly in the 6th form.
- After school detention.
- Being put on “report” – report systems exist for pupils who are failing to make a sufficient effort, for those who are failing to produce homework regularly and for those who are frequently late or unpunctual.
- Permanent or temporary suspension– very rarely used for very serious misconduct or frequent and repeated failure to behave appropriately.

2. Suspensions

A suspension is a temporary sanction in response to a breach of the school rules. There is no right of appeal to suspensions under 11 days.

Procedures for suspension are:

- The Headmistress (or in her absence a Deputy Head) will decide upon whether a pupil should be excluded.
- Before the decision is made, a full investigation will have taken place and the pupil concerned will have been questioned fairly and been able to have stated their own position and version of events.

- Parents will be told the reasons for the suspension, how long it will last, what measures to support the pupil will be provided while they are suspended
- Parents and pupil will be told of the expectations and conditions for the return to the school prior to the end of the suspension period.

3. Expulsions and Removals

An expulsion is permanent and a sanction of last resort. Expulsions are very rare at CLSG. A pupil may be expelled for a single act which constitutes a major violation of discipline, such as breach of the school rules on substance abuse, or for a criminal offence. Expulsions can be appealed via the Board of Governors – see process below. The pupil will be required to remain away from school pending the outcome of the review.

A removal is a permanent step, usually in response to repeated infringements of school policies, poor behaviour over a period of time and inability to benefit sufficiently from the educational opportunities and / or the community life offered by the school. Where removal is requested by the Headmistress, parents may be given a chance to withdraw their child as an alternative at the sole discretion of the Headmistress. The decision to remove can be appealed to the Board of Governors. The student will be required to remain away from school pending the outcome of the review. Further details on removal are found in the Terms and Conditions.

Procedures for expulsion and removal are:

- The Headmistress (or in her absence a Deputy Head) will decide upon whether a pupil should be expelled/removed.
- Before the decision is made, a full investigation will have taken place and the pupil concerned will have been questioned fairly and been able to have stated her own position and version of events.
- Parents will always be informed fully of the reasons for expulsion/removal and given a copy of the Review Procedure.
- The Chairman of Governors or the Deputy Chairman in the Chairman's absence will always be informed of expulsions/removals.
- Parents will be able to lodge an appeal against an expulsion/removal within seven calendar days of being notified of the expulsion/removal.
- An appeal review meeting will take place as soon as possible after the appeal has been lodged.
- The appeal review panel will consist of three members of the Board of Governors, who have not been previously informed of the details of the case in question. Parents may, if they wish, ask the school to nominate an independent person to take the place of the third Governor on the panel.
- The appeal review will be conducted in accordance with the Expulsion/ Removal of Pupils – Review Procedure (Annex A).
- The pupil will be required to remain away from school pending the outcome of the review.

4. Investigations

Disciplinary offences are investigated, depending on the nature and level of the offence, by the Form Tutor, Head of Year, Head of Section, Deputy Head Pastoral and / or Senior Deputy Head as appropriate. Parents will be informed of such an investigation if the sanction is likely to be a suspension or expulsion (see below). Investigations will normally involve an interview with the pupil concerned, as well as gathering evidence from other pupils and members of staff involved (if any). When interviewed by a senior member of staff, and where appropriate, the pupil will be accompanied by their Form Tutor or Head of Year.

5. Exclusion

The term exclusion is reserved for cases of non-payment of fees and is not used in the context of school discipline.

6. Annexes

Annex A – Expulsion/Removal of Pupils – Review Procedure

ANNEX A

Expulsion/removal of pupils – review procedure

1. Important note

These guidelines are non-contractual in nature. They have been prepared for the information and guidance of all who may become concerned in a review hearing following expulsion or the required removal of a pupil.

2. Request for review

Parents/guardians seeking a review of a decision to permanently exclude/remove a pupil from the School must notify the Clerk to the Governors of the City of London School, at Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ of their request in writing within 7 calendar days after the parents/guardian were first notified of the decision to exclude/remove, or such longer period of time as the Clerk to the Governors may specify giving full reasons for the request for review.

3. Review panel

A Review Panel comprising 3 members of the Board of Governors selected by the Clerk to the Board of Governors (one of whom will generally be the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors) will be convened as soon as practicable after the request has been received.

Parents/Guardians may ask the School for an independent person to be appointed to the Panel in place of the third Governor. This request must be made when making the request for a review. The School will nominate an independent person of its own choosing who has not previously been informed of the details of the case.

4. Preparation for review hearing

Parents/guardians will receive at least 7 working days written notice of the date, time and place of the meeting of the Review Panel.

At least 5 working days before the day of the review hearing the Headmistress and the parents/guardians shall provide to each other and to the Clerk to the Governors copies of any documents which are intended to be referred to. All the documents will be made available to the members of the Review Panel prior to the day of the review. The documents to be provided by the Headmistress will usually include the pupil's file and other relevant written pupil records.

The Clerk to the Board of Governors will take notes of the hearing. The notes will not be circulated afterwards. Tape recordings will not be permitted. The parents/guardians, the pupil, if aged 16 or over, and the Headmistress will have the chance of addressing the Review Panel either orally or by written statement. The parents/guardians/pupil may be accompanied by a friend or relation if desired, but not by a legal representative.

5. The review hearing

The review procedure is intended to be informal by nature. However, one member of the Panel will act as Chairman of the Panel and will conduct the hearing in such a manner as s/he thinks fit ensuring that all those present have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

All those who attend the review hearing are expected to show restraint, courtesy and good manners towards all those present, otherwise the Chairman may, in his/her discretion adjourn or terminate the review hearing. If the hearing is terminated the original decision will stand.

Where two or more pupils have been acting in concert and some or all of them have been expelled, the Review Panel may deal with all reviews at the same time.

6. Matters which the review panel may consider

The Review Panel may take into account all of the following circumstances in relation to each issue raised:

- The nature and gravity of the complaint/s against the pupil.
- Whether or not the grounds of the complaint have been reasonably well established on the information that is before the Review Panel, including any information given before the expulsion.
- Whether the complaint was investigated fairly.
- The level of co-operation that has been given by the pupil and her parents.
- The effect of the pupil's alleged conduct on other members of the School community.
- The general record of the pupil during her time at the School.
- The interests of the School community balanced with those of the individual pupil.
- Any other circumstances which appear to the parents, the pupil or the chairman of the Review Panel to be relevant.

7. The decision of the review panel

Parents/guardians will be notified of the Review Panel's decision by the Chairman of the Review Panel by letter within 3 working days of the hearing. The decision of the Review Panel may be a majority decision and will be final.