The statutory guidance describes the temporary changes made to the school suspension and expulsion process due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Important dates

All expulsions occurring between 25 September 2020 and 24 September 2021 (inclusive of those dates) are subject to amended arrangements with regards to:

* the use of remote access technology (for example, videoconferencing or telephone conferencing software) for meetings of governing boards or independent review panels
* The deadline for applications for an independent review in relation to expulsions occurring between 25 September 2020 and 24 September 2021 will be 25 school days from the date on which notice of the governing board’s decision is given in writing to parents, or directly to the pupil if they are 18 or above.

Schools must wait for the extended period of 25 school days to pass without an application having been made before deleting the name of an expelled pupil from their admissions register. This is in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended.

Governing boards and independent review panels (IRPs) who have a duty to meet to discuss an expulsion that occurred between 25 September 2020 and 24 September 2021 may be eligible for time extensions in some circumstances.

Meetings relating to expulsions occurring between 25 September 2020 and 24 September 2021 must take place within the normal timescales described in the [suspensions and expulsions from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England statutory guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion).

Governing boards and arranging authorities for IRPs should take all reasonable steps to meet the normal deadlines for suspensions and expulsions occurring after 24 September 2020.

The link to the full changes for schools to be aware of is below:

[Changes to the school suspension and expulsion process during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion/changes-to-the-school-exclusion-process-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak)