

Department of Children's Services
Aiming High for Children

Private and Confidential
Primary Headteacher/Principal

Director's Office
Margaret McMillan Tower
Prince's Way
Bradford
BD1 1NN

Tel: 01274 439636

6 June 2018

Dear Primary Headteacher/Principal

RE: Permanent Exclusion Support Charge – Bradford's Local Agreement for Financial Support Payments (Primary Phase) £8,000 per excluded pupil from 1st September 2018

Bradford Primary Schools have traditionally had low permanent exclusions compared to other regions, due to the inclusive and supported interventions for all children and young people in our district. There has however, been a rise in primary phase exclusions over the last two years from three in 2015/16 to 18 in 2016/17. This year, to date, there have been five permanent exclusions compared to 12 last year by this time.

Any Bradford pupil permanently excluded from primary school is placed in one of the four off site settings, collectively known as Bradford Behaviour Hub (formally the Behaviour Centres), to discharge the Local Authority's duty to provide education from day 6 of the exclusion. Once the legal process is completed a new school is then identified through a Fair Access Meeting (FAP) while the pupil is supported in the Hub. Other than the recoupment of the AWPU / formula funding adjustment to the school element taken from the excluding school, once a pupil is off roll there are no other monies identified to support the Hub placement, integration to a new setting, or indeed referrals to other professionals or agencies – unlike the secondary phase through the Behaviour and Achievement Collaborative (BAC) local agreements.

The High Needs Block is under enormous pressure, supporting permanently excluded pupils adds to this pressure. A letter from the Behaviour Support Team, posted in January on Bradford Schools Online, explained the changes to funding for referrals to the Bradford Behaviour Hub to ameliorate the pressure on the High Needs Block. This was agreed through Schools Forum some time ago, with the High Needs Block funding the place element at £10,000, and charges to the referring school, to commence from the **1st of September 2018**, equating to a charge of **£300 per week**.

The concern of rising permanent exclusions in the primary phase, and recognition of the costs to support a young person through the process of a permanent exclusion and re-integration into mainstream or other educational setting, alongside the pressure on the High Needs Block, has been regularly discussed at Schools Forum. You may be aware that your Headteacher representatives at the Schools Forum, in January 2018, agreed that primary schools should, as in the secondary phase, put in place a permanent exclusion support charge to schools for every pupil excluded. We intend for this to come into effect from **the 1st September 2018**.

This means that when the excluded pupil comes off the excluding school roll, the finance team for primary phase pupils, and currently the BAC for secondary phase pupils, will recoup **£8,000**.

This money is being charged to *follow the pupil*, allowing the authority to support the pupil in the temporary provision of the 6th day requirement (DfE, 2017) and making funding available for other support as needed. This agreement will mean that we have equity across the primary and secondary phases, and enable a strategy across the district in regard to meeting the needs of pupils permanently excluded from all schools in Bradford, while ensuring some financial support to our schools who take in an excluded pupil. This will allow them to put additional support in place to enable the child to transition successfully; especially as they may have missed the pupil census date and may not be in receipt of any funding to support them.

The group of Headteacher representatives of Bradford Primary Improvement Partnership, Schools Forum, Bradford Behaviour Hub and local authority officers who have been involved in the primary strategy development for charging for permanent exclusions, as indicated by schools forum, are also in the process of developing a flowchart that sets out a process prior to, and following, a permanent exclusion and a Headteacher/Governor checklist to further add to the information support strategy around exclusions. We hope to add this to Bradford Schools Online for information at the start of 2018/2019 academic year.

Please could you confirm your agreement for this collaborative process, and any comments you wish to make, to support permanently excluded young people by returning the slip below.

Yours sincerely



Lynn Donohue
Interim Strategic Lead Inclusion



Yasmin Umarji Interim Strategic Lead
Education Standards and Safeguarding



Permanent Exclusion Support Charge – Bradford’s Local Agreement for Financial Support Payments (Primary Phase)

Signed

Print

School

Position

Comments

Please return this agreement to:
Rahila Nazir: Rahila.nazir@bradford.gov.uk

Margaret McMillan Tower
5th Floor (SEND and Behaviour Support)
Prince’s Street
BD1 1NN

