



Exclusions Policy

Ratified by Chair of Govs:

Signed by 

Date 

Purpose of this Policy:

This policy outlines MIAG's (Meeting Individual Aspirations & Goals) approach to **suspending or excluding** a learner in rare cases where behaviour presents a serious risk to safety, learning, or wellbeing. We aim to be **restorative, supportive**, and **inclusive**, but we also recognise the need for boundaries to protect everyone in our learning community.

Our Approach:

At MIAG, we:

- ✚ Understand that behaviour is communication
 - ✚ Recognise that our learners may have experienced trauma or exclusion before
 - ✚ Use **relational practice, positive behaviour support**, and **risk reduction plans**
 - ✚ View suspension or exclusion as a **last resort**, only used when all other strategies have been considered
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Definitions:

- ✚ **Suspension (Fixed-Term):** A short, temporary removal from provision for a set number of days
- ✚ **Exclusion (Permanent):** A decision to end a learner's placement at MIAG

We may also use internal interventions such as time-out, reflection space, or managed timetables before considering suspension.

Reasons a Suspension or Exclusion May Be Considered:

A suspension or exclusion may be used if a learner:

- ✚ Poses a **serious risk to the safety** of themselves, others, or staff
 - ✚ Causes **significant disruption** to learning despite support
 - ✚ Engages in **violent, threatening, or abusive behaviour**
 - ✚ Is involved in possession of **prohibited items**, including weapons, drugs, or stolen goods
 - ✚ Engages in repeated behaviour that shows refusal to engage with agreed support plans
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Decision-Making Process:

The decision to suspend or exclude is **not one that is taken lightly** and will only be once an initial investigation has been undertaken and will only be made by the **Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer** and will:

- ✚ Be **fair, proportionate, and based on facts**
 - ✚ Take into account the learner's **age, needs, and circumstances**, including any SEND or safeguarding factors
 - ✚ Be clearly recorded and communicated in writing to parents/carers, the placing school (if applicable), and the local authority or school commissioners if required
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Length and Nature of Suspensions:

- ✚ Suspensions will usually be for **no more than 1–3 days**
 - ✚ During suspension, MIAG will offer **remote learning** or a reintegration task
 - ✚ A **reintegration meeting** will be held before the learner returns, with staff, learner, and parent/carer (and other professionals if needed)
 - ✚ We may agree a **revised support plan**, phased return, or increased staffing for a short period
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Permanent Exclusions:

Permanent exclusion from MIAG will only occur when:

- ✚ The incident is **exceptionally serious**
- ✚ All reasonable steps to manage the behaviour **have been exhausted**
- ✚ The setting is no longer able to safely meet the learner's needs

This decision will always include:

- ✚ Consultation with the commissioning/referring school or LA
 - ✚ A formal review of the learner's plan
 - ✚ A written explanation of the reasons, shared with all parties
 - ✚ A **transition or exit plan**, with referrals for other support where possible
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Safeguarding Considerations:

MIAG will always assess whether an incident or exclusion decision raises any safeguarding concerns and report to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)** if appropriate.

Support After Suspension:

Our focus is on **repairing relationships** and **restoring a sense of belonging**. After any suspension or incident:

- ✚ Learners will be supported with a reintegration plan
 - ✚ Staff will receive guidance on how to re-engage the learner
 - ✚ Referrals to external agencies (e.g., CAMHS, YOT, SEND services) may be made if needed
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Recording and Reporting:

- ✚ All suspensions and exclusions are logged securely on ARBOR and are report to the MIAG Management Board as part of routine reporting
 - ✚ Records include the reason, duration, actions taken, and reintegration outcomes
 - ✚ Reports are shared with commissioning schools/LAs and reviewed by leadership regularly to identify patterns
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Right to Appeal:

Parents/carers and referring schools have the right to request a review of a suspension or exclusion. Appeals should be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer within **5 working days** of receiving the decision.

Monitoring and Review:

This policy will be reviewed **annually** or after any serious incident. Lessons learned from incidents will inform staff training and improvements in behaviour support practice.

Key Contacts:

- Operations Manager: [Mike Howard – Mike@miag.co.uk]
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): [Freyr Bendleton – Freyr@miag.co.uk]
- SENCO/Wellbeing Lead: [Freyr Bendleton – Freyr@miag.co.uk]
- Main Office: [email: admin@miag.co.uk or telephone 0333 220 3429]