

# Exclusions Policy: Temporary Covid-19 Addendum

## Introduction

The Department for Education (DfE) has introduced temporary arrangements relating to exclusions due to Covid-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion/changes-to-the-school-exclusion-process-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

## Scope and duration

This addendum applies for the duration of time that the DfE's statutory guidance on temporary changes to exclusions during COVID-19 is in place.

It sets out temporary changes to our normal Exclusions Policy. Pupils, parents and staff should continue to follow our normal Exclusions Policy with respect to anything not covered in this addendum.

We may need to amend or add to this addendum as circumstances or official guidance changes. We will communicate any changes to staff, parents and pupils.

All exclusions 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 meetings of Local Governing Boards (LGBs) or independent review panels (IRPs)
- the deadline for applications for an independent review

## Remote access meetings

For exclusions occurring between **25 September 2020 and 24 September 2021** (inclusive of those dates) any meeting of the Local Governing Board (LGB) exclusion panel or an independent review panel (IRP) should be held via remote access if the following conditions are met:

1. It is not reasonably practicable for the meeting to take place in person, within the usual timescales, due to coronavirus (COVID-19).
2. The LGB or arranging authority for IRPs is satisfied that:
  - all the participants agree to the use of remote access
  - all the participants have access to the technology which will allow them to hear and speak throughout the meeting, and to see and be seen, if a live video link is used
  - all the participants will be able to put across their point of view or fulfil their function
  - the meeting can be held fairly and transparently via remote access.

When determining if it is practicable to meet in person, the LGB or arranging authority should assess:

- the facts of the case
- the circumstances in which a meeting in person could be expected to take place

- the needs of the participants (as far as this is possible)
- the latest public health guidance, including the [actions for schools during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Ahead of the meeting, the LGB (or the arranging authority) will:

- explain to participants what technology they propose to use
- explain that participants do not have to agree to a remote meeting if they do not want to, though this will likely result in the meeting being delayed
- take reasonable steps to facilitate participants' access to the technology required

If the LGB (or arranging authority) is not satisfied that a meeting can be held fairly and transparently via remote access, they should consider using reasonable adjustments to overcome this. They should consult with parents and pupils to take account of their wishes.

If, once the meeting starts, the meeting cannot proceed fairly (for example because a participant cannot access the meeting), the LGB or IRP should adjourn the meeting.

## **Applications for an independent review**

The deadline for applications for an independent review in relation to exclusions occurring between **25 September 2020 and 24 September 2021** will be 25 school days from the date on which notice of the LGB'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.