



**Ombwdsmon
Ombudsman**
Cymru • Wales

School Exclusions

Introduction

Decisions to exclude a pupil from school are taken by the headteacher and reviewed by the school governors. If the decision is upheld, and the exclusion is permanent, you have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. If the panel upholds the exclusion, the local council, as Local Authority (LA), must make sure that the pupil receives suitable alternative education.

What we can do

We can look at the way in which the panel dealt with your appeal. This could include:

- whether or not the panel followed the correct procedures e.g. if the panel was properly constituted and independent; whether the evidence to be relied upon was given to you in good time before the hearing;
- whether or not the hearing was conducted fairly e.g. if you were allowed to call witnesses; whether the panel satisfied itself: (a) that the events that led to the exclusion happened, and, if so, (b) that exclusion was the appropriate course of action

We can also look at the way in which the LA dealt with you afterwards. This could include:

- a complaint that it did not give sufficient alternative full time education promptly, or at all;

- a complaint that the alternative education provided did not suit your child's ability, learning potential or any special educational needs;
- a complaint about a delay in settling your child into a new school.

What we cannot do

We cannot:

- Look at the reason for the exclusion, or anything regarding to discipline in the school, or employment issues regarding members of staff.
- Overturn the decision of the headteacher, the governors or the appeal panel.
- Order the school or the Local Authority to allow your child to return to school, or to admit your child to another school.

Issues to bear in mind

We will usually expect you to have made representations against the exclusion to governors before making a complaint to us. However, you may not always have the right to put your case **in person** to the governors.

You do not have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel in the case of a fixed-term exclusion.

If we find something wrong with the way in which the panel dealt with your appeal we may ask for a fresh panel to rehear your appeal.

If the LA was at fault in some way, we may ask it to make up for any shortfall in the provision of alternative education.

Further information

The guidance document "Exclusion from Schools and Pupil Referral Units", issued in 2019 can be found at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019->

[11/exclusion-from-schools-pupil-referral-units.pdf](#)

Other useful information can be found in the education section of the **Welsh Government** website – <https://www.gov.wales/school-behaviour-and-discipline>

You can also obtain information, advice and support from **Snap Cymru** – www.snapcymru.org

Contact us

If you are not sure whether we would be able to look into your complaint, please [contact us](#) on 0300 790 0203.

Also available in Welsh.

Easy Read

School Exclusions Appeals

