

Queen's College, London
Queen's College Preparatory School
(including Early Years Foundation Stage)

Expulsion, Removal and Review policy



Due for review Summer 2024

Introduction

Scope: This policy applies to Queen's College, London and Queen's College Preparatory School - hereafter referred to as "the School". The policy contains guidelines, which will be adapted as necessary, explaining the circumstances under which a pupil may be expelled from the School, or required to leave permanently for misconduct or other reasons. The policy applies to all pupils at the School but does not cover cases when a pupil has to leave because of ill health, non-payment of fees, or withdrawal by her parents. It should be read in conjunction with the Terms and Conditions.

Interpretation: The definitions in this clause apply in this policy.

Principal / Headmistress: references to the Principal may mean either the Principal of Queen's College or the Headmistress of Queen's College Preparatory School and may include deputies.

Parent: includes one or both of the parents, a legal guardian or education guardian.

Expulsion: A pupil may be formally expelled from the School if it is proved on the balance of probabilities that the pupil has committed a very grave breach of discipline or a serious criminal offence. Expulsion is reserved for the most serious breaches.

Removal: Parents may be required to remove a pupil permanently from the School if, after consultation with the parents and the pupil (if appropriate), the Principal / Headmistress is of the opinion that:

- (a) by reason of the pupil's conduct, behaviour or progress, the pupil is unwilling or unable to benefit sufficiently from the educational opportunities and / or the community life offered by the School;
- (b) if the pupil has committed a breach or breaches of School rules or discipline for which Removal is the appropriate sanction; or
- (c) if the parents have treated the School or members of its community (whether pupils, staff or parents) unreasonably

Further details and examples are given in the Terms and Conditions.

Policy statement

Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- to support the School's behaviour codes
- to ensure procedural fairness and natural justice
- to promote co-operation between the School and parents when it is necessary for the School that a pupil should leave earlier than expected.

Misconduct

The main categories of pupil misconduct which may result in expulsion or removal include but are not limited to:

- supply/possession/use of illegal drugs and solvents or their paraphernalia, including substances such as e-cigarettes, alcohol or tobacco, the sale of which is illegal to children under the age of 18
- theft, blackmail, physical violence, intimidation, racism or bullying
- misconduct of a sexual nature, for example supply or possession of pornography or distribution of inappropriate images online
- possession or use of unauthorised weapons
- vandalism or computer hacking
- persistent attitudes or behaviour which are inconsistent with the School's ethos
- other serious misconduct which affects the welfare of a member or members of the School community or which brings the School into disrepute. This may take the form of a single or repeated action, and may take place either on or off School premises.

Equality

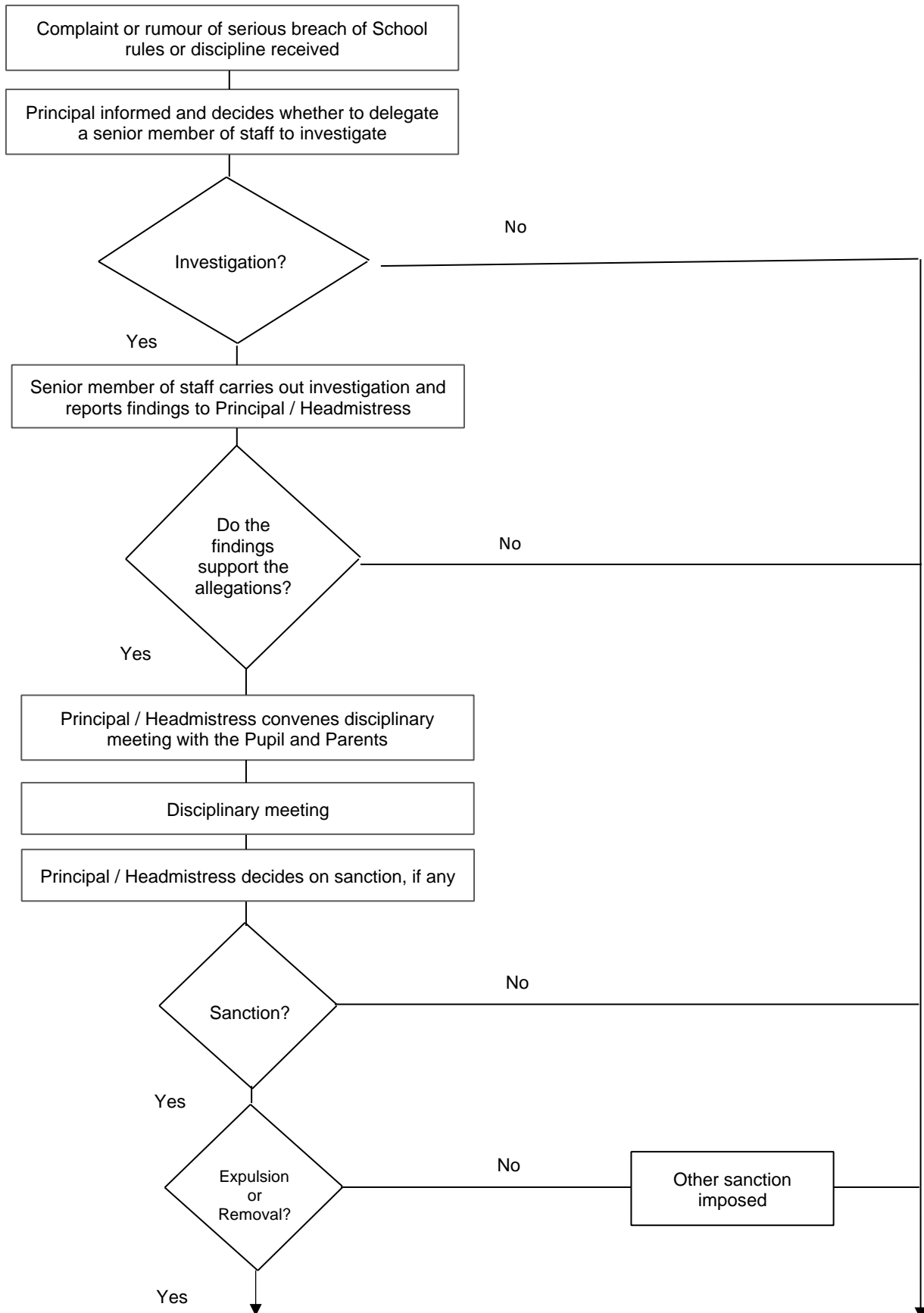
The School will make reasonable adjustments for managing behaviour which is related to a pupil's special educational need or disability. Where expulsion needs to be considered, the School will ensure that a pupil with a disability or special educational needs and / or her parents are able to present their case fully where their disability or special educational needs might hinder this. Any religious requirements affecting the pupil will also be considered.

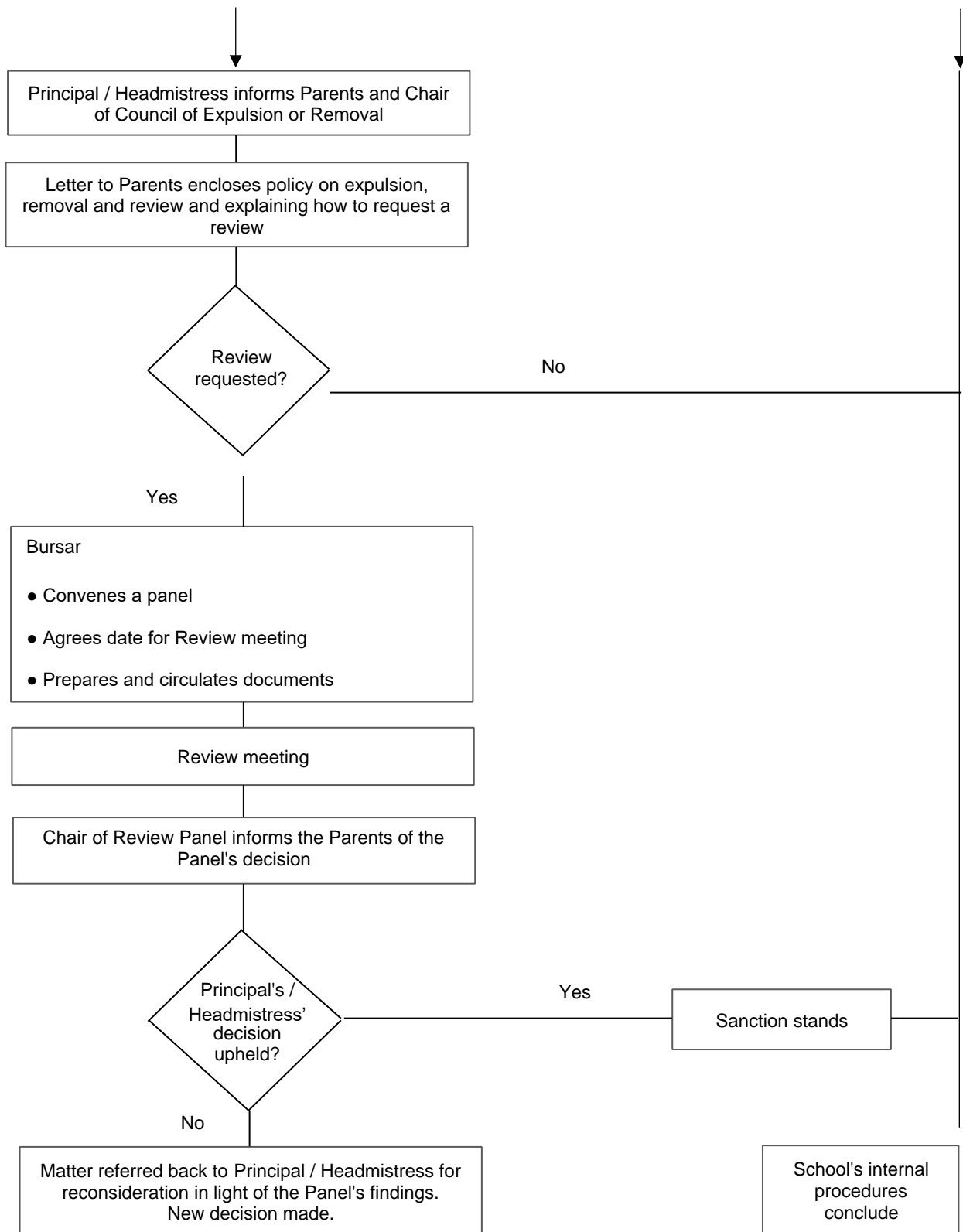
Procedure

The procedure followed by the School in cases where a sanction of Expulsion or Removal may be imposed by the Principal / Headmistress are summarised in the flowchart at **Appendix 1** to this Policy. The three stages of this procedure are as follows:

- **Investigation procedure** - further details of the procedures to be followed at this stage are set out in **Appendix 2**
- **Disciplinary meeting** - further details of the disciplinary meeting are set out in **Appendix 3**.
- **Review meeting** - further details of the Review meeting are set out in **Appendix 4**.

Appendix 1. Procedural flowchart





Appendix 2. Investigation procedure

Complaints

Investigation of a complaint or rumour about serious pupil misconduct will be co-ordinated by a senior member of staff, typically a Deputy Head, and its outcome will be reported to the Principal / Headmistress. Parents will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable if a complaint under investigation is of a nature that could result in the pupil being expelled or removed from the School. The investigation may include an interview with the pupil by one or more members of staff without parents present, if it is deemed necessary for the purposes of a timely or effective investigation.

Suspension

A pupil may be suspended from the School while an allegation is being investigated or while an investigation is suspended (see below). Should a pupil be suspended for a period of more than five working days, the School will take reasonable steps to put in place arrangements to ensure the continuing education of the pupil.

Search

A member of School staff may decide to search a pupil's space and belongings and ask her to turn out the contents of pockets or a bag, if it is considered that there is reasonable cause to do so. Clothing will not be searched until it has been removed from the wearer and care will be taken to ensure reasonable privacy. This policy does not authorise an intimate search or any physical compulsion in removing clothing. Only outer clothing will be searched. Further detail of the College's procedure on searching and confiscation is provided in the Behaviour Policy.

Ethos

An investigation and any subsequent meeting will be conducted fairly and in a way which is appropriate to a school, without formal legal procedures.

Suspension of an investigation

It may be necessary to suspend an investigation, for example where external agencies such as the police or social services are involved and have advised that this is necessary. A decision to suspend an investigation will take into account advice from an appropriate external agency and will be subject to periodic review.

Appendix 3. Disciplinary meeting

1. **Preparation:** The Chair of Council will be informed of the meeting. Documents available at the disciplinary meeting before the Principal (as applicable) will normally include:

- a statement setting out the points of complaint against the pupil
- the investigation report
- the relevant School policies and procedures.

These documents will also be made available to the parents at least 24 hours before the disciplinary meeting.

The Principal / Headmistress may also have access to written statements and notes of the evidence supporting the complaint, and other relevant correspondence. This will not normally be shown to the parents before the disciplinary meeting.

2. **Attendance:** The pupil and her parents will be asked to attend the disciplinary meeting with the Principal / Headmistress at which the senior member of staff appointed to investigate the matter will explain the circumstances of the complaint and his / her investigation.

The pupil may also be accompanied by a member of staff of her choice. The pupil and her parents will have an opportunity to state their side of the case.

If the parents or the pupil have any special needs or disability which call for additional facilities or adjustments (e.g. parking or the provision of documents in large print or other accessible format) those requirements should be made known to the Principal / Headmistress (as applicable) so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

If a parent is unable to attend, the School will make reasonable alternative arrangements to ensure the parent can be involved, remotely if necessary, with the disciplinary process.

3. **Proceedings:** There are potentially three distinct stages of a disciplinary meeting:

3.1 The complaints: The Principal / Headmistress will consider the complaint/s and the evidence, including statements made by and/or on behalf of the pupil. Unless the Principal / Headmistress considers that further investigation is needed, he / she will decide whether the complaint has been sufficiently proved. The standard of proof shall be the civil standard, i.e. the balance of probabilities. Appropriate reliance may be placed on hearsay evidence but the Principal / Headmistress (as applicable) will not normally refer to the pupil's disciplinary record at this stage.

3.2 The sanction: If the complaint has been proved according to the standard outlined above, the Principal / Headmistress will outline the range of disciplinary sanctions which he / she considers are open to him / her. He / She will take into account any further statement which the pupil and/or others present on her behalf may wish to make. The pupil's disciplinary record will be taken into account at this point.

Then, or at some later time, normally within 24 hours, the Principal / Headmistress will give his / her decision in writing, with reasons.

3.3 Leaving status: If the Principal / Headmistress decides that the pupil must leave the School, he / she will consult with a parent before deciding on the pupil's leaving status (see below).

4. Delayed effect: A decision to Expel or Remove a pupil shall take effect seven days after the decision was first communicated to a parent. Until then, the pupil shall remain suspended and away from School premises. If, within seven days, the parents have made a written application for a Review by the Council of their decision, the pupil shall remain suspended until the Review has taken place and either the sanction is upheld or a reconsidered decision made.

5. Leaving status

5.1 Explanation: If a pupil is Expelled or Removed, his / her leaving status will be one of the following: Expelled, Removed or, if the offer is made and accepted, Withdrawn by parents.

The leaving status may determine the extent of the School's support in helping the pupil find alternative educational provision, for example the form of reference that will be provided to a potential future school or whether the Principal will initiate conversations with other Heads on the family's behalf.

5.2 Detail: Additional points of leaving status include:

- the form of letter which will be written to the parents and the form of announcement in the School
- arrangements for transfer of any course and project work to the pupil, his / her parents or another school
- whether (if relevant) the pupil will be permitted to return to School premises to sit public examinations

- whether (if relevant) the School can offer assistance in finding an alternative placement for the pupil
- whether the pupil will be entitled to leavers' privileges
- the conditions under which the pupil may re-enter School premises in the future
- financial aspects: payment of any outstanding fees and extras; whether the deposit will be returned or credited; refunded of prepaid fees.

Appendix 4. Review

1. **Request for review:** A pupil or her parents may request a Review by the Council of a decision to Expel or Remove a pupil; a decision by the parents to withdraw their child cannot be reviewed.

Any request for a Review must be made in writing using the Request Form at **Appendix 5** and received by the Bursar within seven days of the decision being notified to the parents. If the parents or the pupil have any special needs or disabilities which call for additional facilities or adjustments, these should be made known to the Bursar so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

2. **Grounds for review:** In their application, the parents must state the grounds on which they are asking for a Review and the outcome which they seek. For the avoidance of doubt, a straightforward disagreement with the decision of the Principal / Headmistress will not be sufficient grounds for a Review.
3. **Review Panel:** The Review will be undertaken by a three-member sub-committee of the Council. As far as possible, the panel members will have no detailed previous knowledge of the case or of the pupil or parents, and will not include the Chair. Selection of the Panel will be made by the Bursar. With the exception of the Chair, those members of Council not appointed to the Panel will not be provided with information about the case. Parents will be notified in advance of the names of the panel members. Fair consideration will be given to any *bona fide* objection to a particular member of the Panel. The Panel may, if requested by the parents, include an independent member who has no connection with the management or running of the School.
4. **Role of the Panel:** The role of the Panel is to consider the documentation provided by the parties and representations made and to decide whether to uphold the decision of the Principal or refer the decision back to him / her with recommendations so that he / she may consider the matter further.
5. **Review meeting:** The meeting will take place at School premises, normally within ten working days of the parents' application having been received. A Review will not normally take place during school holidays. The parents and the Principal / Headmistress will be asked to submit any documents they wish to refer to at the meeting to the Bursar and a single bundle will be circulated to each member of the Panel and the parties simultaneously at least three days before the meeting. On receipt of new information not previously available to the Principal / Headmistress before his / her decision was made, the Bursar should contact the Chair of Council, who will decide whether:

- to include the new information in the bundle; or
- to omit the information if not relevant to the grounds for Review; or

- to make further enquiries of the parents or the pupil about the information; or
- to refer the information to the Principal / Headmistress for his / her consideration as to whether the decision should be revisited.

A Review meeting is a private procedure and all those who are concerned in it are required to keep its proceedings confidential, subject to law. The requirement is without prejudice to the parties' right to refer to the Panel's decision in any subsequent legal proceedings.

6. **Attendance:** Those present at the Review meeting will normally be:

- members of the Review Panel and an appointed Clerk
- the Principal / Headmistress
- any relevant member of staff whom the pupil or her parents have asked should attend to speak on the pupil's behalf if they are willing to do so, up to a maximum of two, and to whose attendance the Principal / Headmistress agrees
- the pupil, together with her parents and, if they wish, a member of the School staff who is willing to speak on the pupil's behalf.
- a friend or relation, if the Parents wish, to offer them support. The meeting is not a legal proceeding and so legal representation is not necessary or appropriate. The Bursar must be given seven days' notice if the friend or relation is legally qualified and the parents should note that the Review Panel will wish to speak to them directly and this person will not be permitted to act as an advocate.

7. **Conduct of meeting:** The meeting will be chaired by one member of the Review Panel and will be conducted in a suitable room and in an informal manner. All statements made at the meeting will be unsworn. The meeting will not be recorded but the Clerk will be asked to keep a hand-written minute of the main points which arise at the meeting. All those present will be entitled, should they wish, to write their own notes. The meeting will be directed by the Chair of the Review Panel, who will conduct it so as to ensure that all those present have a reasonable opportunity of asking questions and making appropriate comment. Everyone is expected to show courtesy, restraint and good manners. The Chair of the Review Panel may at his / her discretion adjourn or terminate the meeting. If the meeting is terminated, the original decision will stand.

8. **Procedure:** The Principal / Headmistress will provide the parents with a copy of the current Review procedure if requested. The Panel will consider each of the points raised

by the pupil or her parents and any documentation they wish to rely on so far as relevant to:

- **whether the decision was fair procedurally and / or substantively** - whether the facts of the case were sufficiently proved and an appropriate procedure followed when the decision was taken to Expel or Remove of the pupil. The civil standard of proof, namely, "the balance of probability", will apply

and

- **whether the sanction was proportionate** - that is whether it was warranted in respect of the breach of discipline or the other events that are found to have occurred and to the legitimate aims of the School 's policy in that respect.

The requirements of natural justice will apply. If for any reason the pupil or her parents are dissatisfied with any aspect of the meeting, they must inform the Chair of the Review Panel at the time and ask the Clerk to note their dissatisfaction and the reasons for it.

9. **Decision:** When the Chair of the Review Panel decides that all issues have been sufficiently discussed, he / she may conclude the meeting and the Panel will consider its decision and recommendations.

The Panel's decision and any recommendations will be notified in writing, with reasons, to the Principal / Headmistress and the parents by the Chair of the Review Panel within seven days of the meeting. The Principal / Headmistress will provide his / her response to those recommendations, if appropriate, in writing within three working days.

In the absence of a significant procedural irregularity, the decision of the Headmistress / Principal (as applicable) will then be final.

Appendix 5. Form for requesting a Review

To [Name of Bursar]

Subject [Name of pupil]

I/we request a Review of the Principal's / Headmistress' decision to expel / require the removal of the above named pupil. I/we agree that the Review will be carried out in accordance with the Review Procedure supplied to us with this form and I/we agree to abide by the terms of that Procedure and in particular that the proceedings are and will remain confidential subject to law and that the decision of the Principal / Headmistress (as applicable) following consideration of the recommendations made by the Panel will be final, subject to such legal rights (if any) as may exist.

I/we confirm that I/we have parental responsibility for the above named pupil and that I/we have consulted the pupil, who wishes the Review to be undertaken.

I/we understand that the Panel will be concerned with the fairness and proportionality of the decision of the Principal / Headmistress in accordance with the School's existing policies (where applicable and relevant) on educational, pastoral and administrative matters.

I/we understand that we may be accompanied at the Review meeting by a friend or relation and that I/we may ask up to two members of School staff to attend the meeting and speak on behalf of the pupil if they are willing to do so, subject to the agreement of the Principal / Headmistress. If I/we wish to bring a friend or relation who is legally qualified, I/we will provide seven days' notice as required.

I/we will inform the Bursar if I/we have any special needs or disabilities requiring additional facilities or adjustments.

The grounds upon which I/we seek a Review and the matters which I/we wish to discuss at the Review and to ask the Panel to take into account are as set out in a statement attached to this sheet.

(Two signatures required where practicable)

Signed	Signed
Full name	Full name
Relationship to pupil	Relationship to pupil
Date	Date