

Meán Scoil Nua an Leith-Triúigh

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Suspension:

Suspension is defined as a sanction requiring the student to absent himself/herself from the school for a specified, limited period of school days.

The decision to suspend a student requires serious grounds such as that:

- The student's behaviour has had a seriously detrimental effect on the education of other students
- The student's continued presence in the school at this time constitutes a threat to safety
- The student is responsible for serious damage to property
- Repeated incidents of misbehaviour and/or repeated non-compliance with the school's Code of Behaviour – 4 after school detentions is deemed grounds for an automatic 2 day suspension.
- A single incident of serious misconduct may be grounds for automatic suspension e.g. assault, Bullying of any nature (including cyber bullying), gross defiance, smoking, drug or alcohol offences.

In considering a term of suspension, the following factors will be relevant:

- The nature and seriousness of the behaviour
- The context of the behaviour
- The impact of the behaviour
- The interventions tried to date
- Whether suspension is a proportionate response
- The possible impact of suspension

The BOM has delegated the power to suspend for a maximum of 2 days to the Principal. With the approval of the Chairperson of the BOM, a suspension of 4 or 5 days may be imposed by the Principal.

A suspension in excess of 5 days and for not more than 10 days can only be imposed by the BOM.

Additionally, any suspension that would bring the total number of days for which the student has been suspended in the current school year to 20 days or more must be formally reviewed by the BOM.

Fair procedures based on the principles of natural justice will be followed by the school when proposing to suspend a student, as follows:

- The right to be heard

The Principal will inform the student and his/her parents of the complaint, how and by whom it will be investigated and that it could result in suspension. The student and his/her parents will be given an opportunity to reply to the Principal before a decision is made and before any sanction is imposed.

- The right to impartiality

This requires that the investigation of a complaint is separated from the process of making a decision with regard to sanctions. Accordingly, the Principal will usually arrange for another member or members of staff to conduct the investigation and to present a full report on the facts of the case, as well as any other relevant information, to the Principal. The Principal will then decide whether to impose suspension on a student.

The Principal will notify the student and her parents of a decision to suspend. Such a notification will confirm the period of suspension and reason/s for it as well as the right of appeal to the BOM or to the DES as relevant. A suspension will not be served while an appeal is being processed except in the case of behaviour that endangers members of the school community.