

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION POLICY

The School reserves the right to suspend a pupil from School at any time in the event that his conduct or his presence has seriously damaged or is likely to damage the discipline, safety, reputation or good order of the School or Cathedral Choir. Reasons for this include:

- Aggressive, threatening or abusive verbal behaviour in the form of comments, facial expressions, bodily gestures, chanting or abusive singing intended to cause unhappiness, fear or distress
- Aggressive physical behaviour: any physical act or gesture that is intended to cause genuine pain or injury
- Rudeness to staff: any spoken or written comment that is intended to be offensive or disrespectful
- Vandalism: any act that deliberately damages any building or contents of the Cathedral complex
- Theft
- Persistent aggressive, abusive or disruptive behaviour
- Bringing illegal substances on to the premises

No chorister will be suspended without consultation with the Master of Music. If parents, after consultation, still disagree with the decision to suspend the boy they should write within one day of receiving the letter of suspension to:

Mrs Lesley Vigurs
Clerk to the Governing Body
c/o Westminster Cathedral Choir School
Ambrosden Avenue
London
SW1P 1QH

The Chairman of Governors will then convene a committee of Governors who have not participated in the above decision to hear their concerns. The parents may be accompanied to the hearing by one other person. This may be a relative, teacher or friend. Legal representation is not appropriate. The above committee will either confirm the decision on suspension or reinstate the boy having suggested an alternative sanction. The committee's decision will be final.

Expulsion on grounds of behaviour

The School aims to operate by consent not by imposition. If that consent is not forthcoming, in the last report the School may ask for a boy to be removed permanently. Verbal and written warnings to the parents will be given, except in the case of a single unacceptable action by a boy. The final decision regarding expulsion is that of the Chairman of Governors, having taken appropriate professional or other advice from whomsoever he considers suitable. For example, a boy may be expelled

from WCCS for:

- Failure to comply with School policies, after warnings and previous sanctions
- Not accepting School punishments
- Bringing illegal substances on to the School premises
- Endangering other boys or staff
- Disrupting lessons
- Being a bad influence on other boys
- Failing to perform adequately in his academic or musical work after warnings
- Gross rudeness to members of staff or other employees of the School
- Parental failure to disclose all known facts about the pupil, including Special

Educational Needs, or previous suspensions, expulsions, exclusions or major disciplinary incidents, either at application stage or at any stage thereafter

- Theft
- Bullying

If the parents, after consultation, still disagree with the decision to expel the pupil they should write within two weeks of receiving the letter of exclusion to:

Mrs Lesley Vigurs
Clerk to the Governing Body
c/o Westminster Cathedral Choir School
Ambrosden Avenue
London
SW1P 1QH

The Chairman of Governors will then convene a committee of Governors who have not participated in the above decision to hear their concerns. The parents may be accompanied to the hearing by one other person. This may be a relative, teacher or friend. Legal representation is not appropriate. The above committee will either confirm the decision on expulsion or suggest an alternative sanction. The committee's decision will be final.