

See our separate leaflets for further information regarding the Exclusion Process and the Governors' Disciplinary Committee Meeting.



Useful contacts:



The Coram Children's Legal Centre
Website: www.childlawadvice.org.uk

SENDIASS (SEN and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service formerly Parent Partnership Service) Telephone: (01709) 823627

Exclusion Guidance
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>

Rotherham Inclusion Team
(01709) 334077

SEND Local Offer
Website: <http://www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org/>

Inclusion Team

Independent Review Panel



Information Leaflet for
Parents

What is an Independent Review Panel

For Local Authority maintained schools, 3 people form the Independent Review Panel and it follows the same procedure as the Governor's Disciplinary Committee meeting. One member must be a serving or recently retired Headteacher, one must be a serving or recently retired school Governor and the Chair must be someone who has not had a paid job in a school. A Clerk is provided from the Council's Legal Service Team and gives advice on the law and how the meeting should be run. The Headteacher and a member of the Governor's Disciplinary Committee will normally represent the school and a Special Educational Needs expert will also be there if one has been requested by the parent. The review meeting will not be held on the school premises. Academies may have different arrangements but must follow the same government guidelines.



What can the panel do?

The panel can:

- uphold the Governor's Disciplinary Committee's decision;
- recommend that the Governor's Disciplinary Committee reconsiders their decision;
- quash the decision and direct that the Governor's Disciplinary Committee considers the exclusion again.

The panel cannot directly reinstate your child. The panel's decision is legally binding for the parents, the school and the Local Authority. Updated 2017.

What happens next?

The Clerk to the Independent Review Panel will write to you without delay, giving you the panel's decision.

If the panel **quashes** the decision and directs the Governor's Disciplinary Committee to reconsider the exclusion, the Governor's Disciplinary Committee must meet again within 10 days.

If the Governor's Disciplinary Committee does not offer to reinstate your child after this meeting, the Independent Review Panel has the power to impose a financial penalty on the school, but your child will not return to the school.

What happens next?

If the panel recommends that the Governor's Disciplinary Committee reconsider their decision, the Governor's Disciplinary Committee must meet again within 10 days.

If the Independent Review Panel had access to new evidence the Governor's Disciplinary Committee may review this evidence to see whether it changes their decision.

If the Governor's Disciplinary Committee does not offer to reinstate your child after this meeting your child will not return to that school.

What if I don't agree with the panel's decision?

If you believe that the panel's decision is unreasonable or think that the procedure was not followed correctly and that this might have made a difference to the panel's decision, you may complain to the Local Government Ombudsman or ask for a Judicial Review of the decision through the courts. Please be aware that this may incur a cost.