It has been brought to our attention since we released the new suspension and permanent exclusion letter/notification templates that a range of schools have been using an extended range of non-statutory exclusion reasons. This may be due to the range of school management information systems used by schools, for example, Arbor.

Can I remind schools that there are only **16 statutory DfE exclusion reasons**. You may attribute **up to 3 exclusion reasons** per suspension or permanent exclusion.

Only the reasons in **bold** are the statutory DfE reasons. The bullet points are simply helpful examples under each reason to assist schools categorising the reason for exclusion:

1. **Physical assault against pupil**

Includes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * + - fighting | * + - violent behaviour |
| * + - wounding | * + - obstruction and jostling |

1. **Physical assault against adult**

Includes:

* + - * violent behaviour
      * wounding
      * obstruction and jostling

1. **Verbal abuse / threatening behaviour against pupil**

Includes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * + threatened violence | * + aggressive behaviour |
| * + swearing | * + homophobic abuse and harassment |
| * + verbal intimidation | * + carrying an offensive weapon |

1. **Verbal abuse / threatening behaviour against adult**

Includes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * + threatened violence | * + aggressive behaviour |
| * + swearing | * + homophobic abuse and harassment |
| * + verbal intimidation | * + carrying an offensive weapon |

1. **Bullying**

Includes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * + verbal | * + physical |
| * + homophobic bullying | * + racist bullying |

1. **Racist abuse**

Includes:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * + racist taunting and harassment | * + derogatory racist statements | |  |
| * + racist bullying | * + racist graffiti | |  |
| * + swearing that can be attributed to racist characteristics | |  | |
|  |  |  |  |

1. **Sexual misconduct**

Includes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * sexual abuse | * lewd behaviour |
| * sexual assault | * sexual bullying |
| * sexual harassment | * sexual graffiti |

1. **Drug and alcohol related**

Includes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * possession of illegal drugs | * smoking |
| * inappropriate use of prescribed drugs | * alcohol abuse |
| * drug dealing | * substance abuse |

1. **Damage**

      Includes:

* damage to school or personal property belonging to any member of the school community
  + - * vandalism
      * arson
      * graffiti

1. **Theft**

Includes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * + - stealing school property | * + - stealing from local shops on    a school outing |
| * + - stealing personal property (from pupil or adult) | * + - selling and dealing in stolen property |

1. **Persistent disruptive behaviour / Disruptive general behaviour**

Includes:

* + - * challenging behaviour
      * disobedience
      * persistent violation of school rules

1. **Use or threat of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item**

Includes:

* deliberately bringing an offensive weapon to school in order to cause harm
* threatening others with an offensive weapon
* using an offensive weapon or prohibited item to harm someone
* possession

1. **Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity**

Includes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * verbal / threatened /                taunting / mimicking / mocking / harassment abuse | * written abuse / derogatory comments and/or publishing on social media |
|  | * physical abuse/contact |

1. **Abuse relating to disability**

Includes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * verbal / threatened / taunting / mimicking / mocking / harassment abuse | * written abuse / derogatory comments and/or publishing on social media |
|  | * Physical abuse/contact |

1. **Inappropriate use of social media or online technology**

Includes:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * filming staff or pupils without permission | * commenting on web pages or social media accounts relating to staff and/or pupils | |  |
| * circulating / distributing filmed footage to cause deliberate offence | * hacking into school IT systems and deliberately misusing systems to cause offence or disruption | |  |
| * creating web pages or social media accounts relating to staff and/or pupils | |  | |
|  |  |  |  |

1. **Wilful and repeated transgression of protected measures in place to protect public health**

Includes:

* + refusal to follow health and safety rules
  + refusal to follow social distancing rules / bubble cross-over
  + refusal to follow one-way system
  + refusing to wear a mask
  + misuse of antibacterial spray/gel