

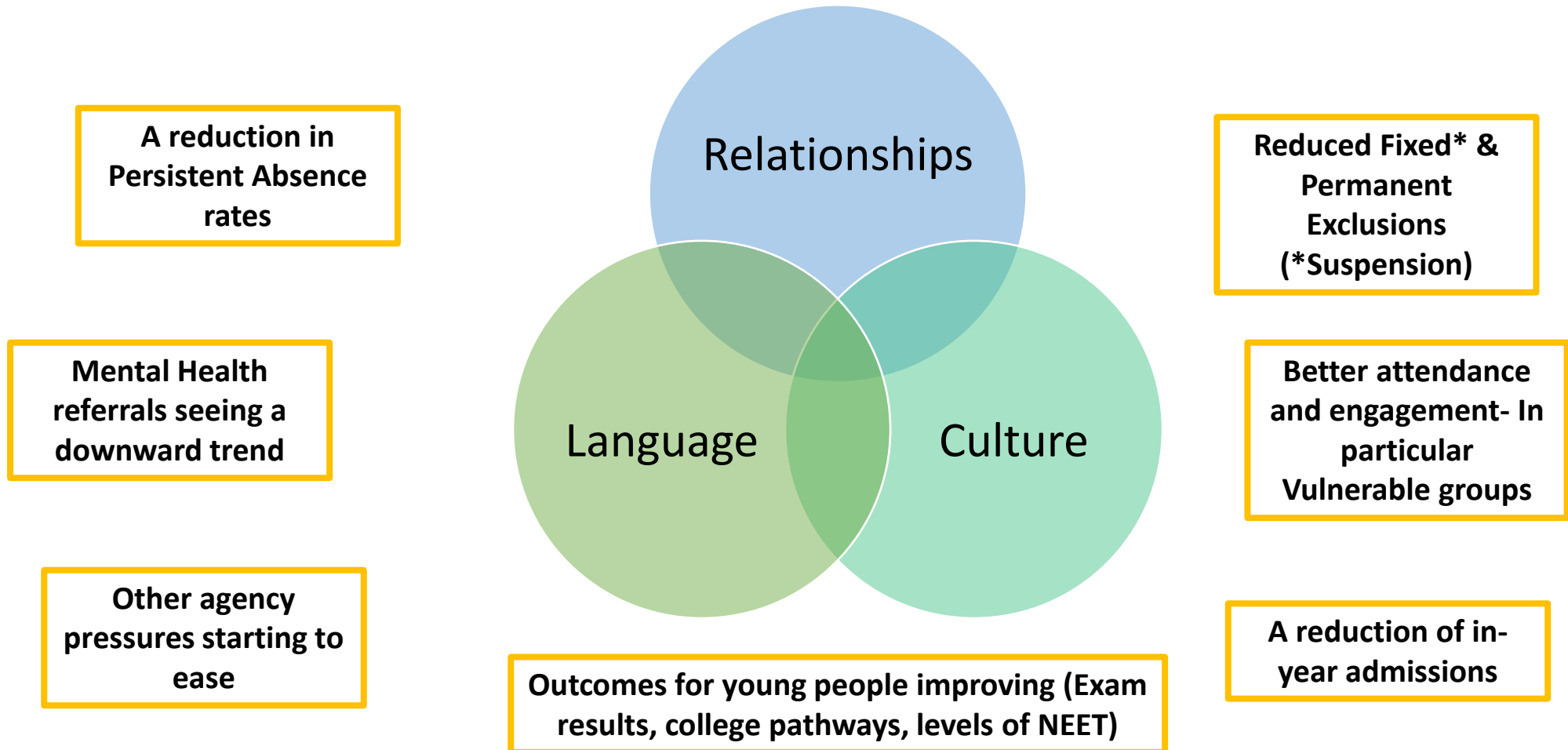
Belonging Framework: Suspensions & Exclusions

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Putting the **Child** at the core of all we do through our **Relationships, Language and Culture**.



Suspensions & Exclusions:

Definition:

If your child has been suspended or excluded from school, it means that they are not allowed to go to school.

This can either be for:

1. a “fixed-term” suspension - a set amount of days from half a day to a maximum of 45 days in one school year (what used to be called ‘exclusion’) or
2. a permanent exclusion - meaning they are removed from the school roll (the official school register) and are not allowed to return (what used to be called ‘expelled’).

Key Points:

- These are the only two types of permitted or “lawful” suspension/exclusion.
- Only the Head teacher or acting Head teacher can give an suspension/exclusion.
- The only reason a child can be suspended/excluded is because of their behaviour either in or outside of school.

Legislation

The decision to suspend/exclude must be:

- lawful
 - rational
 - reasonable
 - fair
 - proportionate
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- There are strict procedures which the school must follow in order for the suspension/ exclusion to be considered 'lawful'.
 - Parents must always be notified in writing.
 - If your child has SEND and has been given a fixed-term suspension or permanently excluded then this can be a sign that their special educational needs are not being met.
 - It is important you take action to try to get your child's needs met to avoid further suspensions/exclusions.

Reasonable Adjustments

- A school should not assume that because your child has SEND, it must have affected their behaviour on a particular occasion. Schools should consider whether your child's SEND has contributed to their behaviour, and whether it is therefore fair and lawful to sanction them because of this.
- Schools should think about any triggers of misbehaviour so they can support all pupils with SEND to behave well.
- Sometimes, pupils with a disability will need reasonable adjustments made to a rule or type of sanction.

What to expect

For a suspension

- You will get a letter from your child's school telling you what to do if you disagree with the suspension.
- You can ask the school's governing board to consider allowing your child to come back to school immediately if either:
 - your child has been suspended for more than 5 school days
 - the suspension means they will miss a public exam, such as a GCSE
- If the suspension is for less than 5 school days, you can still ask the governing board to hear your views, but they cannot bring your child back to school early and are not required to meet you.

Timeline for arranging a governing board meeting

- The timeline for when the governing board will meet depends on how many school days in total your child has been suspended for, including any previous suspensions or cancelled permanent exclusions.
- If this suspension means your child has been, or will be, out of school this term for a total of more than 5 school days but no more than 15 school days due to suspensions or cancelled permanent exclusions, and you have contacted the governing board about the suspension, the governing board must meet within 50 school days of being told about this suspension.
- For suspensions that on their own, or in addition to previous suspensions or cancelled permanent exclusions, will mean your child's total number of days out of school is above 15 for the term, the governing board must meet within 15 school days of being told about the suspension.
- If your child will miss a public exam because of this suspension, the governing board must try to meet before the date of the exam and must meet within 15 school days of being told about the suspension.
- You must be invited to the governing board meeting about your child's suspension and allowed to comment on the suspension of your child or share information.

What to expect

For a permanent exclusion

- You will be invited to a meeting with the school governing board if your child has been permanently excluded. This will happen within 15 school days of the school governing board being told about the permanent exclusion and you must be allowed to comment on the permanent exclusion or share information.
- If the governing board does not decide that your child should be allowed to come back to school, you can ask for an [independent review panel](#) to review their decision. This is organised by your local authority (or academy trust if the school is an academy). The governing board must tell you how to do this.
- **What happens when a governing board considers reinstating a suspended or permanently excluded pupil**

Before the meeting

- If a governing board meeting has been scheduled to consider allowing your child to return to school, you will receive something in writing from your child's school inviting you to attend the meeting.
- You can send written information for the governing board to consider before the meeting. The school should explain how to do this.

After the meeting

- You will be sent something in writing shortly after the governing board meeting explaining what decision the governing board has made and the reasons for their decision.
- The decision will either be:
 - not to reinstate your child
 - to reinstate your child
- If your child is not reinstated, your child will not be able to return to school until the end of their suspension, or at all if they are permanently excluded.
- If they are permanently excluded your local authority must arrange educational provision from the sixth school day of the permanent exclusion.
- If your child is reinstated, you should be told when your child can return to school, if they have not returned already.

Thank you

**If you are worried about Suspensions and Exclusions
please talk to the school and seek support by
contacting the Educational Welfare Service**

educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

1

