

Suspension reasons which could be used – helpful guidance

Suspension reason	Possible examples
Physical assault against a pupil	fighting, obstruction and jostling, violent behaviour, wounding
Physical assault against an adult	obstruction and jostling, violent behaviour, wounding
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	aggressive behaviour, swearing, threatened violence, verbal intimidation
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	aggressive behaviour, swearing, threatened violence, verbal intimidation
Use or threat of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item	carrying or bringing onto the school site an offensive weapon / prohibited item such as knives, sharp instruments and BB guns, carrying any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property, use of an offensive weapon
Bullying	verbal, physical, cyber bullying or threatening behaviour online, racist bullying, sexual bullying, homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, bullying related to disability
Racist abuse	derogatory racist statements, racist bullying, racist graffiti, racist taunting and harassment, swearing that can be attributed to racist characteristics
Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity (for example, LGBT+)	derogatory statements about sexual orientation (e.g. heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual) and gender identity (e.g. transgender), homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, LGBT+ graffiti, LGBT+ taunting and harassment, swearing that can be attributed to LGBT+ characteristics
Abuse relating to disability	derogatory statements or swearing about a disability, bullying related to disability, disability related graffiti, disability related taunting and harassment
Sexual misconduct	lewd behaviour, sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual bullying, sexual graffiti, sexual harassment
Drug and alcohol related	alcohol abuse, drug dealing, inappropriate use of prescribed drugs, possession of illegal drugs, smoking, substance abuse

Suspension reason	Possible examples
Damage to property	damage includes damage to school or personal property belonging to any member of the school community, arson, graffiti, vandalism
Theft	selling and dealing in stolen property, stealing from local shops on a school outing, stealing personal property (from an adult or pupil), stealing school property
Persistent or general disruptive behaviour	challenging behaviour, disobedience, persistent violation of school rules, raising of fire alarms falsely
Inappropriate use of social media or online technology	sharing of inappropriate images (of adult or pupil), cyber bullying or threatening behaviour online, organising or facilitating criminal behaviour using social media
Wilful and repeated transgression of protective measures in place to protect public health	Deliberate breaching of protective measures such as (but not limited to): non-compliance with social distancing, causing distress such as through purposefully coughing very near to other pupils or adults, or any other deliberate breach of public health protective measures which the school has adopted.