

DfE Changes to Reasons for Exclusion Academic Year 2022/23

The DfE expects schools to **cease** the use of “**Other**” as a reason for an exclusion. September 2020 saw the introduction of 5 new exclusion reasons. The expansion of exclusion reasons aims to give schools more scope for accurately coding the reasons for exclusion as outlined below.

New Exclusion Codes	New Pupil Exclusion Reason
OW	Use or threat of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item
LG	Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity
DS	Abuse relating to disability
MT	Inappropriate use of social media or online technology
PH	Wilful and repeated transgression of protective measures in place to protect public health

The table below provides a full set of the descriptors of reasons for exclusions. This is to be used as a guide and is not intended to be used as a tick list for exclusions.

Exclusion Code	Pupil Exclusion Reason	Includes
OW	Use or threat of use of an offensive weapon or prohibited item	<p>Carrying or bringing onto the school site an offensive weapon / prohibited item such as knives, sharp instruments and BB guns,</p> <p>Carrying any article that has been or is likely to be used to commit an offence, cause personal injury or damage to property</p> <p>Use of an offensive weapon</p>
LG	Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity	<p>Derogatory statements about sexual orientation (e.g. heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual) and gender identity (e.g. transgender)</p> <p>Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying</p> <p>LGBT+ graffiti</p> <p>LGBT+ taunting and harassment</p>

		Swearing that can be attributed to LGBT+ characteristics
DS	Abuse relating to disability	Derogatory statements or swearing about a disability Bullying related to disability Disability related graffiti, Disability related taunting and harassment
MT	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
PH	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.
PP	Physical assault against pupil	Fighting Violent behaviour Wounding Obstruction and jostling
PA	Physical assault against adult	Violent behaviour Wounding Obstruction and jostling

VP	Verbal abuse / threatening behaviour against pupil	Threatened violence Aggressive behaviour Swearing Verbal intimidation
VA	Verbal abuse / threatening behaviour against adult	Threatened violence Aggressive behaviour Swearing Verbal intimidation
BU	Bullying	Verbal, physical, cyber bullying or threatening behaviour online, racist bullying, sexual bullying, homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, bullying related to disability
RA	Racist abuse	Racist taunting and harassment Derogatory racist statements Swearing that can be attributed to racist characteristics Racist bullying Racist graffiti
SM	Sexual misconduct	Sexual abuse Sexual assault Sexual harassment Lewd behaviour Sexual bullying Sexual graffiti

DA	Drug and alcohol related	Possession of illegal drugs Inappropriate use of prescribed drugs Drug dealing Smoking Alcohol abuse Substance abuse
DM	Damage to property	Damage includes damage to school or personal property belonging to any member of the school community Vandalism Arson Graffiti
TH	Theft	Stealing school property Stealing personal property (pupil or adult) Stealing from local shops on a school outing Selling and dealing in stolen property
DB	Persistent or general disruptive behaviour	Challenging behaviour Disobedience Persistent violation of school rules Raising of fire alarms falsely

From September 2020 the DfE gives schools the opportunity to utilise up to three reasons for any exclusion. Schools will be able to record a main reason and, if required, a second and third.

