

Summary of Changes to Hillingdon's Off-Site Direction and Managed Move Protocol

Following Implementation of New DfE Guidance (July 2026)

This summary is to support schools, trusts, governors, alternative providers and partner agencies in understanding the key changes incorporated into Hillingdon's revised Off-Site Direction and Managed Move Protocol following the publication of the Department for Education's updated Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions Guidance (July 2026) and the Education (Educational Provision for Improving Behaviour) (Application to Academies and Pupil Referral Units and Minor Amendments) Regulations 2026.

Key Changes

1. Off-Site Direction now reflects the new statutory framework
 - Updated to reflect the Education (Educational Provision for Improving Behaviour) (Application to Academies and Pupil Referral Units and Minor Amendments) Regulations 2026.
 - Clarifies that Off-Site Direction can be used by maintained schools, academies, AP academies and PRUs.
 - Introduces statutory notification and review requirements for Off-Site Directions.
2. Clear distinction between Off-Site Direction and Managed Move
 - Off-Site Direction is confirmed as a temporary intervention.
 - Managed Moves are confirmed as permanent placements.
 - Clarifies that trial Managed Moves are not lawful and that Off-Site Direction should be used where a temporary placement is required.
3. Clarification regarding parental consent
 - Confirms parental consent is not required for a lawful Off-Site Direction.
 - Reinforces that parental agreement remains mandatory for Managed Moves.
 - Strengthens expectations around parental engagement and communication throughout both processes.
4. New governance and monitoring expectations
 - Governing Boards, Trust Boards and Management Committees should receive regular information on:
 - Off-Site Directions
 - Managed Moves
 - Suspensions
 - Permanent Exclusions
 - Other pupil movement data

- Greater oversight of vulnerable groups, including pupils with SEND.

5. Formal review process introduced for Off-Site Directions

- Regular review meetings are now required.
- Governing Boards (or delegated decisionmakers) must determine whether placements continue following each review.
- Parents, adult pupils, and local authorities (where relevant) can request review meetings.
- Written notification requirements have been added.

6. Strengthened SEND requirements

- Additional guidance for pupils with EHCPs.
- Requirement to engage with the Local Authority EHC Team before progressing moves.
- SENCO involvement between schools now explicitly referenced.
- Clarifies that Off-Site Directions and Managed Moves must not be used because a school considers itself unable to meet a pupil's SEND needs.

7. Enhanced safeguarding arrangements

- Earlier involvement of social workers and Virtual School colleagues for children known to social care.
- Requirement for safeguarding planning discussions prior to placements commencing.
- Increased focus on risk, protective factors, and wider family circumstances.

8. Stronger emphasis on pupil and parent voice

- Schools are expected to formally record and consider pupil and parent views.
- Greater focus on ensuring pupils understand and contribute to planning and decision-making.

9. Greater focus on reintegration and outcomes

- Reintegration planning is now expected from the outset of an Off-Site Direction.
- Review meetings must consider:
 - Reintegration to the home school;
 - Transition to a Managed Move; or
 - Further support requirements.
- Clarifies that subsequent permanent exclusion decisions should not be based solely on incidents occurring before the Off-Site Direction placement.