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Education is a long-term process that involves the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and attitudes through formal and informal learning experiences.

When a child is educated, it means they have the opportunity to learn and grow in a structured environment, typically from the age of 3 onwards.

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## School based advocate

A school-based advocate is a member of staff at a child's school. They can:

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The Direction Conference of and of  
child health and education:

# Information for parents and carers about exclusion

The school will try to arrange the reconnection meeting for a date and time that is suitable. If you are unable to attend a reconnection meeting, you are not available to attend, the school can make a decision about your child's learning progress and behaviour without you.

## Other important information

### Children can be treated differently for the same behaviour

When a Principal thinks about the best response to a child's behaviour, they have to look at everything and think about the individual child involved. Two children may have behaved the same, but it may be fair to treat each child differently. For example, if 2 children are fighting, 1 might be excluded and the other not.

### Behaviour that did not happen at school

Your child can be excluded for behaviour that has happened outside of school hours and on school grounds if there is a reasonable connection between your child's behaviour and the school or school relationship.

### Your child can't be on school grounds while they are suspended or excluded

It is against the law for your child to be on school grounds while they are suspended or excluded. If your child comes on to school grounds, they are committing a criminal offence.

Your child can be on school grounds to attend their Direction Conference, mid-exclusion review meeting and reconnection meeting.

If your child has a good reason to be on school grounds, for example to:

- get advice provided on school grounds
- attend an agreed alternative learning program

the Principal can approve this in writing.

### Enrolment in another school

You can't enrol your child at another school while they are excluded. If your child is enrolled at a new school after the exclusion, your child's behaviour will be reviewed. The Principal of the current school and the Principal of the new school will talk about your child's behaviour and a behaviour support plan will be developed to be seen by both schools, your and your child.

### If you are unhappy with the Principal's decision to exclude your child

You, your child or an adult acting on your behalf or on the behalf of your child can appeal against the exclusion and request a review of the exclusion.

You can appeal a Principal's decision to exclude your child if you think that:

- the Principal has excluded your child on the basis of wrong information. For example, your child did not do the thing the Principal has excluded them from
- the school has not followed the correct procedure.

For example, the school did not conduct a Direction Conference

- the exclusion is too long. For example, the length of the exclusion is longer than the school needs to discipline your child or for your child to adjust to school

- the conditions of the exclusion do not meet your child's needs. For example, the alternative learning program does not provide enough support for your child.

The opportunity to appeal against your child's exclusion must be explained to you at the Direction Conference. The school will give you the appeal form.

If you decide to appeal the Principal's decision, you must provide the appeal to the Education Director at your local education office, within 5 school days of the Direction Conference. If you don't know which local education office to contact:

ask your child's school

or phone the Department for Education on 8226 1000 each for your child's school on [www.education.nsw.gov.au/nda/school](http://www.education.nsw.gov.au/nda/school). The name of the Education Director, the education office and phone number are on the school's listing.

# Information for parents and carers about education

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## Contact details for more information

You can find out more about education and the appeal process:

making an appointment with the Principal or another school leader

contacting your local education office

calling the Department for Education on 8226 1000

going to the Department for Education website

at <https://www.education.gov.uk/> and each 'education'.

## Additional supports

For additional support you can contact Parent Helpline Phone 1300 364 100 (24-hour service).

If your child needs to talk to someone, you can encourage them to contact:

### [Headspace](#)

Mental health support for children and young people aged 12 to 25 years. Phone: 1800 650 890.

### [Kid Helpline](#)

Peer-to-peer support, elf-helpline and helpline and online counselling for children and young people aged 5 to 25 years. Phone: 1800 55 1800.