

# **Managed move guide for parents**

## **What is a managed move?**

A managed move is when a child attends another school other than their home school for a set period for a fresh start or to see if their behaviour can be improved. This can only happen when both schools, the child, their parent, or carer agree to the move.

## **When can a managed move be setup?**

A managed move can be set up for a variety of reasons but generally they are done because a child is at risk of a permanent exclusion. If your child has been identified as being at risk of permanent exclusion the headteacher could discuss the possibility of a managed move when other strategies such as a pastoral support plan have been used and the risk of permanent exclusion still remains.

## **Who will be involved in setting up a managed move?**

The managed move is coordinated by the headteachers at both schools. If both schools agree a meeting is set up at the proposed school with senior staff from both schools, the child, parent/carers, and any other support agency working directly with the family can be invited. It is very important that you and your child attend the meetings.

## **Preparing for a managed move**

Parents and carers are a crucial part of the success of a managed move, it is important that you know what you will need to do to support your child during and after this process.

Before the meeting:

- Try to consider in advance the benefits of your child being in another school and how you can support them to make the move a success.
- It will also be helpful to talk to your child about what a managed move is and why you think it would be a good idea. The home school will also go through this with you and your child in the first meeting.
- Remind your child that the purpose of the managed move is to support them to make a successful transfer to another school and have a fresh start.
- Talk to your child about what both of you think may be reasonable to expect from the school, and anyone else involved.

## **What will happen at the first meeting?**

In the first meeting this will be your opportunity to share your hopes for your child as well as any concerns you have regarding the move. It is important that you are honest about your child's difficulties and anything that you feel you need support with.

Things to expect from the meeting:

- It is also important that everyone also considers the positive things about your child and the things that they are good at doing.
- Once your child's difficulties have been identified they will be set targets so that they know what they will be judged on.
- The school will also set out the type and length of support your child will receive
- You should be very clear about what the school's expectations are and what your child will need to show for the move to be successful.
- A review date should be agreed along with the date for the end of the move
- For the managed move to be successful your child will need to make a commitment to meet key behaviour and or attendance targets and it would be good if they are able to share their thoughts and feelings in the meeting.
- A member of staff who will meet your child to regularly review their progress will be identified. This will give your child the chance of talking about what is going well, and any concerns they have.

Your role in the managed move is to:

- Ensure that you can support your child by providing your child with the required transport to the receiving school and the necessary school uniform
- Support the managed move by taking an active role in guiding your child, supporting them with homework, their behaviour targets and generally working very closely with the school.

Everyone will sign the managed move agreement which outlines everybody's responsibilities, what is to be done by whom and when.

### **Should my child attend the meetings?**

You will be able to agree with school staff whether your child should be present for the whole meeting or join in towards the end. Generally, children at secondary schools attend the whole meeting.

### **How long will the managed move last?**

A managed move runs for approximately 12 weeks to allow your child the opportunity to settle into the new school and show progress. The length of the managed move may be extended in exceptional circumstances. A formal review is held at around 4 weeks with the final review at week 11 during this time your child will remain registered at the home school.

At the end of the managed move, if it has been successful, your child will transfer to the receiving school permanently.

## **How will I know if the plan is working?**

Someone will contact you about your child's progress or any difficulties they are having, you will also be invited to a review meeting halfway through the managed move to discuss how things are going.

The key people who attended the original managed move meeting will be invited to the review meetings to:

- Talk about your child's progress and attendance
- Any concerns about the new placement
- The support in place and any new strategies to help your child settle at the receiving school.

After the final review if the managed move has been successful your child will transfer to the receiving school permanently.

## **Special Educational Needs**

If your child has an Education Health and Care Plan in which their present school is named, then a managed move would not be appropriate. If your child is vulnerable to a permanent exclusion and their current school does not feel able to meet their needs; under such circumstances the school should contact the special Educational Needs and Disability team and an emergency review should be convened.

## **What if the managed move is not successful?**

Should a managed move be at risk of breakdown you will have been kept informed regularly by the school, but if the concerns are severe the receiving school should arrange a review meeting as soon as possible.

Unless there is a one-off major incident you should not be surprised if the managed move is not successful. If the headteacher at the receiving school ends the managed move, you should receive a letter explaining why it has been terminated including the support your child received whilst they were attending the school. Your child would normally return to their original school where a meeting will be held with you to discuss the next steps taking into consideration the discussions that were held in the initial meeting.