**DfE Changes to Reasons for Exclusion Academic Year 2020/2021**

The DfE expects schools from the beginning of academic year 2020/21 to ***cease*** the use of “**Other**” as a reason for an exclusion. September 2020 also sees 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.

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| **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.

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| **Exclusion Code** | **Pupil Exclusion Reason** | **Includes** |
| **OW** | **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 |
| **LG** | **Abuse against sexual orientation and gender identity** | 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 |
| **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. However, within Derbyshire we are awaiting an upgrade from our service provider Synergy which will occur in November 2020, which will then enable the recording of 3 reasons to be recorded at Local Authority level***. In the interim*** it is proposed that schools continue to provide the local authority with 1 main reason for exclusion, as is current practice. Schools may wish to contact direct their specific management information system provider to ensure that changes have also been incorporated into school systems.