



CASE: PERMANENT EXCLUSION FOR A SERIOUS BREACH

13 year old student, had been bullied for years. Money had been stolen from them. Student had been humiliated, assaulted, abused, isolated and forced to end their relationship. This culminated in being forced to purchase drugs for their bullies, who consumed them in school, and needed medical attention.

Instead of supporting the student, the school permanently excluded them. The years of victimisation was not considered –the supply of drugs was grounds for immediate exclusion (a serious breach of the behaviour policy). The student and their family protested, but the school stood by their sanction. The student faced being forced into a PRU, where there may have been at risk of further exploitation.

With the help of their CEN advocate, the family were able to prepare an appeal. The advocate explained the process to them, obtained and sifted through pages of material to identify key evidence, and prepared written submissions for appeal. At a governors hearing, the advocate represented the family to demonstrate how the school had failed their legal and safeguarding duties. The exclusion was unlawful and unfair.

OUTCOME:

The governors were persuaded by these arguments. They cancelled the student's exclusion and reinstated them. The school then took steps to address the bullying and provided the student with the support needed.

As a result of CEN's advocacy, this student remained in his mainstream school, with access to high-quality teaching and emotional support. They and their family are now happy as the child is thriving, fulfilled and able to enjoy their education and plan for their future.