

## Expulsion

A student is expelled from a school when a Board of Management makes a decision to permanently exclude him or her from the school, having complied with the provisions of section 34 of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000. As part of the code of behaviour, the Board of Management should ensure that the school has a policy on, and procedures for, expulsion which are in line with these Guidelines and with any additional requirements set down by the Patron.

### 12.1 Authority to expel

The Board of Management of a recognised school has the authority to expel a student. As a matter of best practice, that authority should be reserved to the Board of Management and should not be delegated.

#### **Schools and colleges established or maintained by a VEC**

In the case of schools and colleges established or maintained by a VEC, the VEC itself holds the authority to expel. That authority may be devolved (under section 31<sup>1</sup> of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000) by the VEC to the Board of Management of individual schools. In devolving authority to a Board of Management, the VEC should ensure that the scope of the authority granted is in line with the provisions of these Guidelines, Articles of Management and/or Model Agreement and all relevant legal requirements.

## Expulsion should be a proportionate response to the student's behaviour.

### 12.2 The grounds for expulsion

Expulsion should be a proportionate response to the student's behaviour. Expulsion of a student is a very serious step, and one that should only be taken by the Board of Management in extreme cases of unacceptable behaviour. The school should have taken significant steps to address the misbehaviour and to avoid expulsion of a student including, as appropriate:

- meeting with parents and the student to try to find ways of helping the student to change that behaviour
- making sure that the student understands the possible consequences of that behaviour. It should permit
- ensuring that all other possible options have been tried
- seeking the assistance of support agencies (e.g. National Educational Psychological Service, Health Service Executive Community Services, the National Behaviour Support Service, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, National Council for Special Education).