

16. Managed Moves



What Is a Managed Move?

A managed move is a voluntary, temporary agreement between schools and parents designed to help a child who is at risk of being permanently excluded. It allows your child to have a trial period at a new school, giving them a fresh start in a different environment while still officially being on the register of their original school.

This process requires the full agreement of everyone involved: you, your child, the headteacher of your child's current school (the **home school**), and the headteacher of the new school (the **receiving school**).

Key Principles of a Managed Move

- **It's a last resort:** A managed move is considered only after the home school has tried various other strategies to support your child's social, emotional, and behavioural needs. It's not a quick fix or a substitute for a straightforward school transfer.
- **Voluntary Agreement:** This isn't a forced decision. Your full agreement is essential, and your child's views must also be taken into account.
- **Dual Registration:** For the duration of the trial, your child remains on the register of their home school. They will only be moved to the new school's register permanently if the move is successful.
- **Time-limited:** A managed move typically lasts up to **12 weeks**.
- **Regular Reviews:** Throughout the managed move, progress is reviewed every four weeks. This is a chance for everyone to check on your child's attendance and progress toward the set goals.

When is a Managed Move Considered?

A managed move is considered when a child is at risk of permanent exclusion, and the home school has exhausted all other preventative measures. It's an opportunity for your child to benefit from a new setting that might offer something different, such as a smaller school, a new peer group, or a different teaching style, to better suit their needs.

A managed move is generally **not** appropriate if:

- You want to transfer your child to another school (you should use the in-year transfer process speak to Doncaster School Admissions Service)
- Your child is not currently on a school register
- Your child would not be able to return to their home school if the move is unsuccessful
- The move would not ultimately be of benefit to your child.



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The Managed Move Process

1. **Discussion and Agreement:** The process starts with you and your child's home school having a discussion - either you or school can initiate this.
2. **Meeting and Planning:** Once a receiving school is identified and you agree, a meeting is set up. Representatives from both schools, you, and your child should attend. This meeting is where the details of the move, including any support plans and transport arrangements, are discussed and agreed upon.
3. **Trial Period:** Your child begins their trial at the receiving school. A member of staff will regularly meet with your child to review their progress. Both schools will work together to monitor attendance and share information.
4. **Final Review:** At the end of the trial period, a final review meeting is held. A decision is made based on your child's progress:
 - **Successful:** Your child will be permanently transferred to the receiving school.
 - **Unsuccessful:** Your child will return to their original home school.

What About Transport?

Transport arrangements, if needed, will be discussed at the initial planning meeting. During the managed move, the cost of transport will be covered by either you or the home school. However, if the move is successful and your child is permanently transferred, you will become responsible for all transport costs.

Important Things to Remember

- **Your child's views are important:** While they are expected to attend meetings, if they find it difficult, another trusted adult can help gather their thoughts and feelings.
- **Pressure is unacceptable:** Schools should never suggest that you remove your child to find another school. If you feel you were pressured to agree to a managed move, you can contact the local authority's Behaviour and Inclusion Team.
- **Uniforms are provided:** Every school is expected to have a stock of uniforms for children undertaking a managed move.
- **Support is available:** A case officer from the local authority (LA) may be involved to offer advice and guidance throughout the process. In Doncaster, this service is offered by the Behaviour and Inclusion Team. If you would like further information or guidance, you can contact them by emailing: bits@doncaster.gov.uk.

Managed Moves for Children Who Have An EHCP

Managed moves for children with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are very rare. This is because children with EHCPs have extra legal protections under the Children and Families Act and SEND Regulations.



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If a managed move is being considered for a child with an EHCP, there are important steps that must happen first:

- The local authority's Special Educational Needs (SEN) team must be formally involved
- Everyone involved must agree – this includes both schools, the parents and the local authority
- The EHCP must be reviewed (either at the annual review or through an interim review).

Managed moves are meant to help children make a fresh start. However, for children with EHCPs, it's especially important to make sure the new school can meet the child's specific needs – this might include specialist staff, equipment, or support

If the new school isn't able to provide the right support, the move could make things more difficult.

It is very important that everyone involved (including the child) takes time to carefully consider whether the move is the right decision.

The managed move **must not** proceed until the EHCP has been amended and the new placement is named in the plan.

Managed Moves for Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) – Without an EHCP

If your child is on the school's SEN register but does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), any managed move between schools is not controlled by the same legal procedures as those with an EHCP. However, schools still have a duty to follow best practices to make sure the move is in your child's best interests.

The Graduated Response

Instead, schools must show they've followed the Graduated Response to SEN support:

- **Assess** your child's needs
- **Plan** appropriate support
- **Do** (put the support in place)
- **Review** how well it's working

Before suggesting a move, the school should check whether your child's needs are being met. If not, more support or further assessment may be needed first.

Contact Doncaster SENDIAS for advice and read more in the [Doncaster Parents Handbook](#).



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Involvement of the School Special Educational Needs Coordinator

The school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCO) should be involved in all discussions about a managed move. They help ensure:

- The new school can meet your child's needs
- The right support is in place from the start.

To do this, the current school must share key information with the new school, including:

- SEN support plans
- Academic progress
- Behaviour records
- Risk assessments
- Details of any professionals already involved.

Important Things to Consider

- You should never feel pressured into agreeing to a managed move especially for children who are named on the school's SEN register
- Managed moves are not the same as exclusions and do not come with a formal right of appeal.
- Schools who encourage a managed move may breach the Equality Act 2010, especially if the practice disproportionately affects children with disabilities or special educational needs.

Direction Off-Site

You may hear the term "direction off-site" used by your child's school. We have a separate guide this which we'd encourage you to read, but we've outlined some of the key differences below.

Key Differences Between a Managed Move and Direction Off-Site

Feature	Managed Move	Direction Off-Site
Parental Consent	Required. This is a voluntary agreement	Not legally required , but the school should still involve you.
Duration	Permanent transfer to a new school.	Temporary and time-limited , with regular reviews
School Roll	If the move is successful, your child's name is deleted from the original school's register and added to the new schools. If the move was unsuccessful, they would remain on their home schools school role.	Your child remains on the register of the original school and is dual registered with the temporary placement.
Purpose	To provide a permanent fresh start in a new environment.	To provide a temporary intervention to improve behaviour



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		with the aim of returning to the original school.
Outcome	If the move is successful, your child starts a new school. If the move is unsuccessful then they would stay on their home school's register.	Your child either returns to their original school or, if agreed, a managed move is arranged.

Need More Support?

If you would like further information on managed moves, please contact Doncaster [SENDIAS Service](#) by calling [01302 736920](tel:01302736920) or email sendias@doncaster.gov.uk.



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