

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE BY THE  
CONNÉTABLE OF ST. LAWRENCE**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2009**

**Question**

For the academic years 2005 to 2008 inclusive, would the Minister inform members -

- (a) of the total number of pupils in the non fee-paying secondary schools who have been suspended;
- (b) how many of those pupils have been suspended for a period of more than five days or an aggregate period of more than fifteen days in any school term;

**Answer**

- (a) and (b)

By their very nature suspensions are temporary and are designed to underline that certain forms of behaviour are unacceptable in schools, and also, where appropriate, to provide breathing space so that support arrangements can be put in place either for successful reintegration or for transfer to alternative provision.

The information requested in parts (a) and (b) of the question is set out in the table below -

Academic year	Total number of pupils in the non fee-paying secondary schools who have been suspended	Number of pupils who have been suspended for a period of more than five days	Number of pupils who have been suspended for an aggregate period of more than fifteen days in any school term
2005/2006	163	0	1
2006/2007	176	11	5
2007/2008	224	7	3

**Question**

- (c) of the current policy for deciding upon suspension;

**Answer**

- (c) Under Article 36 of the Education (Jersey) Law the headteacher has the authority to suspend a pupil for a period of up to five days, or an aggregate period of up to 15 days, in any one school term. Suspension is used as a sanction according to a tariff reflecting the severity of incidents, and this is to ensure consistency across schools. The tariff for suspensions was developed in cooperation with Kathie Bull as a follow-up to the Bull Report published in 2003.

Any suspensions exceeding 5 days, or totalling more than 15 days, in any term must be authorised by the Chief Officer of the Education, Sport and Culture Department.

**Question**

- (d) whether that policy will be reviewed?

**Answer**

- (d) I have already stated that in 2009 I will review the application of the suspensions policy and the guidance provided to schools. Furthermore, this will also be considered as part of the inclusion review to be conducted across schools in 2009.