



**THE KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL**

**Exams  
Policy**

**2022-2023**

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## **Purpose of the policy**

The centre is committed to ensuring that the exams management and administration process is run effectively and efficiently and in compliance with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements.

This exam policy will ensure that:

- all aspects of the centre's exam process is documented, supporting the exams contingency plan, and other relevant exams-related policies, procedures and plans are signposted to
- the workforce is well informed and supported
- all centre staff involved in the exams process clearly understand their roles and responsibilities
- all exams and assessments are conducted according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions, thus maintaining the integrity and security of the exam/assessment system at all times
- exam candidates understand the exams process and what is expected of them

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure ways of working in the centre are accurately reflected and that exams and assessments are conducted to current JCQ (and awarding body) regulations, instructions and guidance.

This policy will be communicated to all relevant centre staff via the Staff Shared Area & The Staff Handbook.

## EXAMINATION POLICY

- General
- Qualifications
- Examination series and timetables
- Entries, entry details and late entries
- Examination fees
- Disability Discrimination Act
- Estimated grades
- Managing invigilators
- Candidates
- Internal assessments and appeals
- Results
- Certificates

### General

#### Examination Responsibilities

##### Head of Centre

#### **Head of centre responsibilities**

The **head of centre** is the individual who is accountable to the awarding bodies for ensuring that the centre is always compliant with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/assessments. **It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that all staff comply with the instructions in this booklet.** Failure to do so may constitute malpractice as defined in the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures, 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023*: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice> (ICE Introduction)

Having overall responsibility for the school as an examination centre, the Head of Centre:

- Ensures compliance with the published regulations in order to deliver the qualifications **Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO**
- Makes sure that a teacher who teaches the subject being examined, or a senior member of teaching staff who has had overall responsibility for the subject department and/or preparing the candidates for the examination, is not an invigilator during the timetabled written examination or on-screen test
- Ensures confidentiality and security within the examination process is compliant with and managed according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions including
  - the location of the centre's secure storage facility in a secure room solely assigned to examinations for the purpose of administering secure examination materials

- the secure room only contains exam-related material
- there are between two and six keyholders only, each of whom must fully understand their responsibilities as a key holder to the secure storage facility
- access to the secure room and secure storage facility is restricted to the authorised two to six keyholders and staff named and approved by the head of centre are accompanied by a keyholder at all times
- appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential materials are only handed over to authorised members of centre staff
- appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential materials are only delivered to authorised members of centre staff
- the relevant awarding body is immediately informed if the security of question papers or confidential supporting instructions is put at risk
- that arrangements are in place to check that the correct question paper packets are opened by authorised members of centre staff
- Through taking an ethical approach and working proactively to avoid malpractice among students and staff takes all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice/maladministration before, during the course of and after examinations have taken place
- Ensures irregularities are investigated and informs the awarding bodies of any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, are reported to the awarding body immediately
- Takes responsibility for confirming, on an annual basis, that they are both aware of and adhering to the latest version of the JCQ's regulations. This confirmation is managed as part of the National Centre Number Register (NCNR) annual update
- Understands that this responsibility cannot be delegated to a member of the senior leadership team or the examinations officer, and acknowledges that failure to respond to the NCNR annual update, and/or the head of centre's declaration, will result in:
  - the centre status being suspended
  - the centre not being able to submit examination entries
  - the centre not receiving or being able to access question papers
 and ultimately, awarding bodies could withdraw their approval of the centre

### **Recruitment, selection and training of staff**

- Retains a workforce of an appropriate size and competence, including sufficient managerial and other resource, to undertake the delivery of the qualification as required by an awarding body. This includes taking reasonable steps to ensure occupational competence where this is required for the assessment of specific qualifications
- Provides fully qualified teachers to mark non-examination assessments, and/or fully qualified assessors for the verification of centre-assessed components
- Enables the relevant senior leader(s), the examinations officer (EO) and the ALS lead/SENCo to receive appropriate training and support in order to facilitate the effective delivery of examinations and assessments within the centre, and ensure compliance with the published JCQ regulations
- Appoints an ALS lead/SENCo who will determine appropriate arrangements for candidates with learning difficulties and disabilities

- Ensures that the ALS lead/SENCo has sufficient time to both manage the access arrangements process within the centre and familiarise him/herself with the JCQ publication *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*
- Ensures that the examinations officer is line managed and actively supported by a member of the senior leadership team who has a good working knowledge of the examination system
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### **Internal governance arrangements**

- Has in place a written escalation process should the head of centre, or a member of the senior leadership team with oversight of examination administration, be absent
- Has in place a member of the senior leadership team who will provide support and guidance to the examinations officer and ensure that the integrity and security of examinations and assessments is maintained throughout an examination series
- Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
- Makes sure that a teacher, a tutor or a senior member of centre staff who teaches the subject being examined, is not an invigilator during the examination

### **Delivery of qualifications**

- Delivers qualifications, as required by the awarding body, in accordance with relevant equality legislation. This includes but is not limited to ensuring that qualifications are made available to all candidates capable of undertaking them and seeking reasonable adjustments for disabled candidates
- Enables candidates to receive sufficient and up to date laboratory experience, or relevant training where required by the subject concerned

### **Public liability**

- Complies with local health and safety rules which are in place and that the centre is adequately covered for public liability claims
- Ensures required internal appeals procedures are in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and (where relevant) their parents/carers
- Ensures the centre's equalities policy demonstrating the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place and details the processes followed in respect of identifying the need for, requesting and implementing access arrangements
- Ensures the centre has a child protection/safeguarding policy in place, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements
- Ensures the centre has a data protection policy in place that complies with General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 regulations
- Ensures the centre has documented processes in place relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

### **Security of assessment materials**

- Takes all reasonable steps to maintain the integrity of the examinations/assessments, including the security of all assessment materials, by ensuring:
  - the location of the centre's secure storage facility in a secure room ~~solely assigned to examinations~~ which must only be used for the purpose of administering secure examination materials
  - the secure room only contains exam-related material

- there are between two and six keyholders only, each of whom must fully understand their responsibilities as a key holder to the secure storage facility
- access to the secure room and secure storage facility is restricted to the authorised two to six keyholders and staff approved by the head of centre are accompanied by a keyholder at all times
- appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential examination materials are only handed over to authorised members of centre staff
- appropriate arrangements are in place for handling secure electronic materials
- the relevant awarding body is immediately informed if the security of question papers or confidential supporting instructions is put at risk
- that when it is permitted to remove question paper packets from secure storage, and to avoid potential breaches of security, arrangements are in place to carefully check and record that the correct question paper packets are opened  
(If it is ever subsequently identified following this check that the wrong question paper packet has been opened, it will be resealed and the incident reported to the relevant awarding body's Malpractice Investigation Team immediately)
- Makes arrangements to receive, check and store question papers and examination material safely and securely at all times and for as long as required in accordance with the current JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations*
- Makes arrangements to receive and issue material received from the awarding bodies to staff and candidates, and notify them of any advice and instructions relevant to the examinations and assessments
- Allows candidates access to relevant pre-release materials on, or as soon as possible after, the date specified by the awarding bodies
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### **Conflicts of interest**

- Ensures the relevant awarding bodies are informed before the published deadline for entries for each examination series of any potential conflict of interest where
  - a member of centre staff is taking a qualification at the centre which includes internally assessed components/units (taking at the centre as a last resort where unable to find an alternative centre)
  - a candidate is being taught and prepared for a qualification which includes internally assessed components/units by a member of centre staff with close relationship to the candidate
- Maintains clear records that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected by the above, and where
  - a member of exams office staff has a close relationship to a candidate being entered for exams and assessments at the centre or at another centre
  - a member of centre staff is taking a qualification at the centre which does not include internally assessed components/units (taking at the centre as a last resort where unable to find an alternative centre)
  - a member of centre staff is taking a qualification at another centre

- Ensures other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials are briefed on the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials
- Ensures members of centre staff do not forward emails and letters from awarding body or JCQ personnel without prior consent to third parties or upload such correspondence onto social media sites and applications
- Ensures members of centre staff do **not** advise parents/candidates to contact awarding bodies/JCQ directly nor provide them with addresses/email addresses of awarding body examining/assessment personnel or JCQ personnel

### **National Centre Number Register**

- Provides contact details and an address to which all correspondence in connection with the administration of examinations and assessments can be directed which must be the registered address of the centre
- Ensures the National Centre Number Register annual update is responded to by the end of October
- Takes responsibility for confirming, on an annual basis, that they are both aware of and adhering to the latest version of the JCQ's regulations. This confirmation is managed as part of the National Centre Number Register (NCNR) annual update
- Understands that this responsibility cannot be delegated to a member of the senior leadership team or the examinations officer, and acknowledges that failure to respond to the NCNR annual update, and/or the head of centre's declaration, will result in:
  - the centre status being suspended
  - the centre not being able to submit examination entries
  - the centre not receiving or being able to access question papers and ultimately, awarding bodies could withdraw their approval of the centre

### **Malpractice**

- Through taking an ethical approach and working proactively to avoid malpractice among students and staff takes all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice/maladministration before, during and after assessments have taken place
- Ensures any person involved in administering, teaching or completing examinations/assessments is advised that where malpractice is suspected, or alleged, personal data about them will be provided to the awarding body (or bodies) whose examinations/assessments are involved. Personal data about them may also be shared with other awarding bodies, the qualifications regulator or professional bodies in accordance with the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures*
- Ensures irregularities are investigated and informs the awarding bodies ~~cases~~ immediately of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, ~~awarding body~~ by completing the appropriate documentation
- As required by an awarding body, ensures evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) is gathered in accordance with the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures* and provides such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require
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### Centre inspections

- Co-operates with the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, an awarding body or a regulatory authority when subject to an inspection, an investigation or an unannounced visit, and takes all reasonable steps to comply with all requests for information or documentation made by an awarding body or regulatory authority as soon as is practical
- Allows all venues used for examinations and assessments, paperwork and secure storage facilities to be open to inspection
- Understands the JCQ Centre Inspector will identify him/herself with a photo ID card and **must** be accompanied throughout his/her tour of the premises, including inspection of the centre's secure storage facility

### Examinations Officer –

Manages the administration of public and internal examinations:

- Advises the senior leadership team, subject and class tutors and other relevant support staff on annual examination timetables and application procedures as set by the various awarding bodies.
- Provides staff and candidates with timetables for all examinations in which candidates will be involved and communicates regularly with staff concerning imminent deadlines and events.
- Ensures that candidates and their parents are informed of and understand those aspects of the examination timetable that will affect them.
- Consults with teaching staff to ensure that necessary internal assessment is completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- Provides and confirms detailed data on estimated entries.
- Administers access arrangements and makes applications for special consideration using the JCQ publication - Access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration.
- Identifies and manages examination timetable clashes.
- Provides information on results achieved to SLT and teachers. Arranges for dissemination of examination results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the SLT, any appeals/re-mark requests. Maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their examinations. Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ publications including:
  - [General Regulations for Approved Centres](#)
  - [Instructions for Conducting Examinations](#)
  - [Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments](#)
  - [Post-results services \(PRS\)](#)
- Is familiar with the contents of annually updated information from awarding bodies on administrative procedures, key tasks, key dates and deadlines
- Ensures key tasks are undertaken and key dates and deadlines met
- Recruits, trains and deploys a team of internal/external invigilators; appoints lead invigilators, as required and keeps a record of the content of training provided to invigilators for the required period



- Works with the SENCo to ensure invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates and those acting as a facilitator supporting access arrangement candidates fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room
- Supports the head of centre in ensuring that awarding bodies are informed of any Conflict of Interest declared by members of centre staff and in maintaining records that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected before the published deadline for entries
- Briefs other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials on the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials

### **Senior leaders**

- Are familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
  - [General Regulations for Approved Centres](#)
  - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#)
  - [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#)
  - [Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures](#)
  - [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments \(and the instructions for conducting coursework\)](#)
  - [A guide to the special consideration process](#)
- Ensure teaching staff undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process (exam cycle) and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and ALS lead/SENCo
- Ensure teaching staff keep themselves updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Ensure teaching staff attend relevant awarding body training and update events

### Assistant Examinations Officer

- Receives, checks and stores securely all examination papers and completed scripts.
- Arranges posting of examination papers.
- Submits candidates' internal assessment marks, tracks despatch and stores returned work and any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies correctly and on schedule.

### Heads of Department

- Provide guidance and pastoral oversight for candidates who are unsure about examination entries or amendments to entries.
- Support post-results procedures.
- Accurately complete internal assessment mark sheets and declaration sheets.
- Provide accurate entries and inform the Examinations Officer of any amendments in a timely manner.
- Adhere to deadlines set by the Examinations Officer.

### **Teaching staff**

- Undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and ALS lead/SENCo
- Keep updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Attend relevant awarding body training and update events

### **Invigilators**

- Attend/undertake training (on the current regulations), annual update, briefing and review sessions as required
- Provide information as requested on their availability to invigilate
- Sign a confidentiality and security agreement and confirm whether they have any current maladministration/malpractice sanctions applied to them

### **Reception staff**

- Support the EO in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials and follow the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials

### **Site staff**

- Support the EO in relevant matters relating to exam rooms and resources

### Teachers

- Notify SENCO of any access arrangements which may be required (as soon as possible after the start of the course).
- Ensure that necessary internal assessment is completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- Submit lists of candidates and internal assessment marks to Heads of Department.

### SENCO

- Administers access arrangements.
- Identifies and organises testing of candidates' requirements for access arrangements.
- Provides evidence for access arrangement/reasonable adjustments applications.
- Provides additional support — with spelling, reading, Mathematics, dyslexia or essential skills, hearing impairment, English for speakers of other languages, IT equipment — to help candidates achieve their course aims.
- Liaises with teaching staff to gather evidence of **normal way of working** of an affected candidate
- Determines candidate eligibility for arrangements or adjustments that are centre-delegated
- Gathers signed **Personal data consent, Privacy Notice (AAO) and Data Protection confirmation** forms from candidates where required
- Applies for **approval** through **Access arrangements online (AAO)** via the **Centre Admin Portal (CAP)**, where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Keeps a file for each candidate for JCQ inspection purposes containing all the required documentation (if documentation is stored electronically, an e-folder must be created for each individual candidate. The candidate's e-folder must hold each of the required documents for inspection)
- Employs good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010

- Liaises with the EO regarding exam time arrangements for access arrangement candidates
- Ensures staff appointed to facilitate access arrangements for candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular arrangement(s) and keeps a record of the content of training provided to facilitators for the required period
- Works with the EO to ensure invigilators and those acting as a facilitator fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room
- Provides and annually reviews a centre policy on the **use of word processors** in exams and assessments

### Invigilators

- Conduct examinations in accordance with the JCQ Instructions for Conducting Examinations.
- Collect all examination papers in the correct order at the end of the examination and return them to the examinations office.

### Candidates

- Check entries and inform the Examinations Officer of any amendments required in a timely manner.
- Understand and adhere to examination regulations.
- Understand and adhere to internal assessment regulations and sign a declaration that authenticates the internal assessment as their own.

## **Qualifications**

### **Qualifications Offered**

The qualifications offered at this centre are decided by the Head of Centre.

The qualifications offered are GCE, BTEC, Cambridge Technicals Level 3, GCSE and Cambridge Nationals level 2..

The subjects offered for these qualifications in any academic year may be found in the centre's option booklets for that year. If there has been a change of specification from the previous year, the examinations office must be informed by 15 September.

Informing the examinations office of changes to a specification is the responsibility of the Heads of Department.

Decisions on whether a candidate should be entered for a particular subject will be taken in consultation with the subject teachers and Heads of Department.

## **Examination Series and Timetables**

### **Examination Seasons**

Internal examinations and assessments are scheduled in December and May/June/July.

External examinations and assessments are scheduled in November and May/June.

The Head of Centre and Heads of Department decide which examination series are used in the centre.

### **Assessments are not offered on an on-demand basis. The exam cycle**

The exams management and administration process that needs to be undertaken for each **exam series** is often referred to as the **exam cycle** and relevant tasks required within this grouped into the following stages:

- planning
- entries
- pre-exams
- exam time
- results and post-results

This policy identifies roles and responsibilities of centre staff within this cycle.

### **Planning: roles and responsibilities**

#### Information sharing

#### **Head of centre**

- Directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including

### Exams officer

- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ publications and awarding body documentation relating to the exams process that have been updated
- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ information that should be provided to candidates
- As the centre administrator, approves relevant access rights for centre staff to access awarding body secure extranet sites

### [Information gathering](#)

#### Exams officer

- Undertakes an annual information gathering exercise in preparation for each new academic year to ensure data about all qualifications being delivered is up to date and correct
- Collates all information gathered into one central point of reference
- Researches awarding body guidance to identify administrative processes, key tasks, key dates and deadlines for all relevant qualifications
- Produces an annual exams plan of key tasks and key dates to ensure all external deadlines can be effectively met; informs key centre staff of internal deadlines
- Collects information on internal exams to enable preparation for and conduct of [insert the titles these internal exams are referred to in the centre]

#### Head of department

- Responds (or ensures teaching staff respond) to requests from the EO on information gathering
- Meets the internal deadline for the return of information
- Informs the EO of any changes to information in a timely manner minimising the risk of late or other penalty fees being incurred by an awarding body
- Notes the internal deadlines in the annual exams plan and directs teaching staff to meet these

### [Access arrangements](#)

#### Head of centre

- Ensures there is appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements in the centre for all examinations and assessments
- Ensures the SENCo is fully supported in effectively implementing access arrangements and reasonable adjustments once approved

#### SENCo

- Assesses candidates (or works with the appropriately qualified assessor as appointed by the head of centre) to identify access arrangements requirements
- Gathers **evidence** to support the need for access arrangements for a candidate
- Liaises with teaching staff to gather evidence of **normal way of working** of an affected candidate
- Determines candidate eligibility for arrangements or adjustments that are centre-delegated

- Gathers signed **Personal data consent, Privacy Notice (AAO) and Data Protection confirmation** forms (candidate personal data consent form) from candidates where required
- Keeps a file for each candidate for JCQ inspection purposes containing all the required documentation
- Liaises with the EO regarding exam time arrangements for access arrangement candidates
- Ensures staff appointed to facilitate access arrangements for candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular arrangement(s) and keeps a record of the content of training provided to facilitators for the required period
- Works with the EO to ensure invigilators and those acting as a facilitator fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room
- Provides and annually reviews a centre policy on the **use of word processors** in exams and assessments

### Timetable

Once confirmed, the Examinations Officer will circulate the examination timetable for internal examinations and external examinations.

### Entries, Entry Details and Late Entries

Candidates are selected for their examination entries by the Heads of Department and subject teachers.

Candidates or parents/carers can request a subject entry, change of level or withdrawal. The Examinations Officer will only action the request if it is approved by the Head of Department or Head of Centre. There may be a charge involved.

The centre accepts entries from former candidates only who will be classed as external candidates.

Entry deadlines are circulated to Heads of Department via email.

Late entries are authorised by Heads of Department and Head of Centre.

GCSE( Maths & English only) and A2 retakes are allowed.

Re-sit decisions will be made by candidates in consultation with subject teachers and the Examinations Officer.

### Estimated entries

#### **Exams officer**

- Requests estimated or early entry information, where this may be required by awarding bodies, from HoDs in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met

- Makes candidates aware of the JCQ **Information for candidates – Privacy Notice** at the start of a course leading to a vocational qualification or when entries are submitted to awarding bodies for processing for general qualifications

### Senior leaders

- Provide entry information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- Inform the EO immediately of any subsequent changes to entry information

### Final entries

#### **Exams officer**

- Requests final entry information from HoDs in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met
- Informs HoDs of subsequent deadlines for making changes to final entry information without charge
- Confirms with HoDs final entry information that has been submitted to awarding bodies
- Ensures as far as possible that entry processes minimise the risk of entries or registrations being missed reducing the potential for late or other penalty fees being charged by awarding bodies
- Observes each awarding body's terms and conditions for the entry and withdrawal of candidates for their examinations and assessments, and observes any regulatory requirements for the qualification

### Senior leaders

- Provide information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- Inform the EO immediately, or at the very least prior to the deadlines, of any subsequent changes to final entry information, which includes
  - changes to candidate personal details
  - amendments to existing entries
  - withdrawals of existing entries
- Check final entry submission information provided by the EO and confirms information is correct

### Examination Fees

GCSE, and A2 first entry examination fees are paid by the centre.

Re-sit fees are paid by the candidates.

Late entry or amendment fees are paid by the candidates.

Fee reimbursements may be sought from candidates who decide to sit an examination after the late entry/withdrawal deadline/fail to sit an examination/do not meet the necessary internal assessment requirements without medical evidence or evidence of other mitigating circumstances.

Candidates will not be charged for alterations arising from administrative processes, or for changes of tier or withdrawals made by the proper procedures, provided these are made before the relevant deadline.

## Candidate statements of entry

### **Exams officer**

- Provides candidates with statements of entry for checking

### **Teaching staff**

- Ensure candidates check statements of entry and return any relevant confirmation required to the EO

### **Candidates**

- Confirm entry information is correct or notify the EO of any discrepancies

## Equality Act

This document is provided as an exams-specific supplement to the *centre-wide disability/accessibility policy/plan* which details how the centre will:

- *recognise its duties towards disabled candidates as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010*. This must include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates; for any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect

[Quote taken directly from section 5.4 of the JCQ publication *General Regulations for Approved Centres 2019-2020*]

This policy details how the centre facilitates access to exams and assessments for disabled candidates, as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, by outlining staff roles and responsibilities in relation to:

- identifying the need for appropriate arrangements, reasonable adjustments and/or adaptations (referred to in this policy as ‘access arrangements’)
- requesting access arrangements
- implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams
- good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010

### **The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability**

A definition is provided on page 4 of the JCQ publication *Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2019-2020*.

All exam centre staff ensure that the access arrangements and special consideration regulations and guidance are consistent with the law All examination centre staff ensure that the centre meets the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

The centre meets the provisions under Equality Act 2010 by ensuring that the examinations centre is accessible and improving candidate experience following procedures below. This is the responsibility of the Head of Centre, Examinations Officer and SENCO.



## **PROCEDURES**

All exam rooms are accessible, chairs are available when queuing outside when required.

There is an appropriate toilet near or in all of these areas.

If any candidate needs to take regular medication, invigilators will make this possible. The Exams Officer should be notified if there are any exceptional health issues.

Any specialised equipment will be provided and an appropriate examination area selected.

Invigilators will be briefed of any exceptional issues concerning communication or other factors which may affect the candidate.

Verification of students- year photograph kept at front of Exam Hall to recognise student quickly  
Registration of student checked by Head of year before entering exam hall

The SENCO will make the Exams Officer aware of any issues concerning individuals in the main exam rooms.

The SENCO/Exams Officer will take the lead in making access applications based on their close knowledge of the needs of students under their care. They will produce a list of the students involved together with their concessions and this list will be available in all exam rooms in the files or on desks.

Any complaints made by candidates with disabilities should be directed in the first instance to the Examinations Officer who will initiate an enquiry.

### Briefing candidates

#### **Exams officer**

- **Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates and informs candidates of any designated contingency day(s) awarding bodies may identify in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams**
- **Prior to exams issues relevant JCQ information for candidates documents**
- **Where relevant, issues relevant awarding body information to candidates**
- **Issues centre exam information to candidates including information on:**
  - exam timetable clashes
  - arriving late for an exam
  - absence or illness during exams
  - what equipment is/is not provided by the centre
  - food and drink in exam rooms
  - unauthorised items in exam rooms
  - when and how results will be issued and the staff that will be available
  - post-results services information and how the centre will deal with requests from candidates
  - when and how certificates will be issued

## **Access Arrangements**

The SENCO will inform subject teachers of candidates with special educational needs who are embarking on a course leading to an examination. The SENCO will also inform individual staff of any special arrangements that individual candidates may be granted during the course and in the examination.

A candidate's access arrangements requirements are determined by the SENCO and educational psychologists/specialist teachers. Students with a physical disability have their individual needs assessed in advance and arrangements are put into place and shared with the student to ensure they have full access to all examinations. SENCO pass all the relevant information to the Exams Officer who will apply online for the relevant Access Arrangements.

Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates will be organised by the SENCO with the exams officer. Making access arrangements for candidates to take examinations is the responsibility of both the SENCO and the Examinations Officer.

Submitting completed access arrangement applications to the awarding bodies is the responsibility of the Examinations Officer.

Rooming for access arrangement candidates will be arranged by the Examinations Officer with the SENCO.

Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates will be organised by the SENCO with the Examinations Officer.

## **Contingency Planning**

Contingency planning for examinations administration is the responsibility of the senior leadership team. See separate Contingency planning Policy

## **Private Candidates**

The School only accept past pupils as private candidates. Managing private candidates is the responsibility of the Examinations officer.

## **Managing Invigilators**

External invigilators and teachers are used to invigilate internal and external examinations.

Recruitment of invigilators is the responsibility of the senior leaders and Exams Officer

Securing the necessary Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance for new invigilators is the responsibility of the centre administration.

CRB fees for securing such clearance are paid by the centre.

Invigilators are timetabled and trained by the Examinations Officer.

Invigilators' rates of pay are set by the centre administration.

- All invigilators will either receive group training including disability issues or will work alongside an experienced invigilator. Provides an annually reviewed/updated invigilator handbook to invigilators, trains new invigilators on appointment and updates experienced invigilators annually
- Deploys invigilators effectively to exam rooms throughout an exam series (including the provision of a roving invigilator where a candidate and invigilator [acting as a practical assistant, reader or scribe] are accommodated on a 1:1 basis to enter the room at regular intervals in order to observe the conducting of the exam, ensuring all relevant rules are being adhered to and supporting the practical assistant/reader and/or scribe in maintaining the integrity of the exam)
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to a timetable clash) according to the required ratios
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates

### **Head of centre**

- Ensures relevant support is provided to the EO in recruiting, training and deploying a team of invigilators
- Ensures, if contracting supply staff to act as invigilators, that such persons are competent and fully trained, understanding what is and what is not permissible (and not taking on its own an assurance from a recruitment agency, that this is the case)
- Determines if additional invigilators will be deployed in timed Art exams in addition to the subject teacher to ensure the supervision of candidates is maintained at all times

### **Exams officer**

- Recruits additional invigilators where required to effectively cover all exam periods/series' throughout the academic year
- Collects information on new recruits to identify if they have invigilated previously and if any current maladministration/malpractice sanctions are applied to them
- Provides training for new invigilators on the current instructions for conducting examinations and an annual update for the existing invigilation team so that they are aware of any changes in a new academic year before they are allocated to invigilate an exam

- Ensures invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates understand their role (and the role of a facilitator who may be supporting a candidate) and the rules and regulations of the access arrangement(s)

## **Malpractice**

The Head of Centre is responsible for investigating suspected malpractice.

2020/2021 issues for malpractice relate to:

- *breaches of internal security;*
- *deception;*
- *improper assistance to students;*
- *failure to appropriately authenticate a student's work;*
- *over direction of students in preparation for common assessments;*
- *allegations that centres submit grades not supported by evidence that they know to be inaccurate;*
- *centres enter students who were not originally intending to certificate a grade in the Summer 2021 series;*
- *failure to engage as requested with awarding organisations during the External Quality Assurance and appeal stages; and*
- *failure to keep appropriate records of decisions made and teacher assessed grades*

## Security of exam materials

### **Exams officer**

- Confirms appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential materials are only handed over to those authorised by the head of centre
- Ensures access to the secure room is restricted and staff approved by the head of centre are accompanied by a keyholder at all times. There must be between two and six keyholders only, each of whom must fully understand their responsibilities as a key holder to the secure storage facility
- Has a process in place to demonstrate the receipt, secure movement and secure storage of confidential exam materials within the centre
- Ensures a log is kept at the initial point of delivery recording confidential materials received and signed for by authorised staff within the centre and that appropriate arrangements are in place for confidential materials to be immediately transferred to the secure storage facility until they can be removed from the dispatch packaging and checked in the secure room before being returned to the secure storage facility in timetable order
- Carefully checks question paper packets when they are removed from the dispatch packing and keeps a log of the check
- Ensures the secure storage facility contains only current and live confidential material (ensuring that past examination question papers, internal tests and mock examinations are not kept in the centre's secure storage facility)

- Ensures that examination stationery, e.g. answer booklets and formula booklets are stored in the secure room (attempting to store this material in the secure storage facility, when sufficient space allows)
- Ensures the integrity and security of any electronic question paper is maintained during the downloading, printing and collating process (ensuring printing is carried out in an area that can be controlled to prevent unauthorised personnel accessing live assessment materials and ensuring only authorised members of centre staff have access to electronic question papers)

### **Reception staff**

- Follow the process to log confidential materials delivered to/received by the centre to the point materials are issued to authorised staff for transferal to the secure storage facility

### **Teaching staff**

- Adhere to the process to record the secure movement of confidential materials taken from or returned to secure storage throughout the time the material is confidential

### Timetabling and rooming

#### **Exams officer**

- Produces a master centre exam timetable for each exam series
- Identifies and resolves candidate exam timetable clashes according to the regulations (only applying overnight supervision arrangements as a last resort, once all other options have been exhausted and according to the centre's policy)

#### [Overnight Supervision Arrangements Policy](#)

- Identifies exam rooms and specialist equipment requirements
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to an exam timetable clash) according to required ratios
- Liaises with site staff to ensure exam rooms are set up according to JCQ and awarding body requirements
- Liaises with the ALS lead/SENCo regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates

#### **ALS lead/SENCo**

- Liaises with the EO regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with other relevant centre staff to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams

#### **Site staff**

- Liaise with the EO to ensure exam rooms are set up according to JCQ and awarding body requirements

### Alternative site arrangements

#### **Exams officer**

- (Where/if applicable to the centre) Ensures question papers will only be taken to an alternative site where the published criteria for an alternative site arrangement has been met
- Will inform the JCQ Centre Inspection Service to timescale by submitting a JCQ Alternative Site arrangement notification using CAP (or through the awarding

body where a qualification may sit outside the scope of CAP) of any alternative sites that will be used to conduct timetabled examination components of the qualifications listed in the JCQ regulations

- **Examination Days**

- The Examinations Officer will book all examination rooms after liaison with other users and make the question papers, other examination stationery and materials available for the invigilators.
- Site management is responsible for setting up the allocated rooms.
- The Examinations Officer or invigilators will start all examinations in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- Subject staff may be present outside the examination room at the start of the examination to assist with identification of candidates, but must not advise on which questions or sections are to be attempted.
- In practical examinations subject teachers may be on hand in case of any technical difficulties.

Examination papers must not be read by subject teachers or removed from the examination room before the end of a session. Papers will be distributed to Heads of Department once all students have completed the examination as recommended by the JCQ

#### **Head of centre**

- Ensures that internal tests, mock exams, revision or coaching sessions are not conducted in a room 'designated' as an exam room
- Ensures that when a room is 'designated' as an exam room it is not used for any purpose other than conducting external exams
- Ensures only approved centre staff (who have not taught the subject being examined) are present in exam rooms to perform permitted tasks
- Ensures the centre's policy relating to food and drink that may be allowed in exam rooms is clearly communicated to candidates
- Ensures the centre's policy on candidates leaving the exam room temporarily is clearly communicated to candidates

#### **Exams officer**

- Ensures exam rooms are set up and conducted as required in the regulations
- Provides invigilators with appropriate resources to effectively conduct exams
- Briefs invigilators on exams to be conducted on a session by session basis (including the arrangements in place for any transferred candidates and access arrangement candidates)
- Ensures sole invigilators have an appropriate means of summoning assistance (if this is a mobile phone, instructs the invigilator that the mobile phone is only allowed to be used for this specific purpose and that it must be kept on silent mode)
- Ensures invigilators understand they must be vigilant and remain aware of incidents or emerging situations, looking out for malpractice or candidates who may be in distress, recording any incidents or issues on the exam room incident log
- Ensures invigilators understand how to deal with candidates who may need to leave the exam room temporarily and how this should be recorded on the exam room incident log

- Provides authorised exam materials which candidates are not expected to provide themselves
- Ensures invigilators and candidates are aware of the emergency evacuation procedure
- Ensures invigilators are aware of arrangements in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance if an exam room is evacuated

#### **Site staff**

- Ensure exam rooms are available and set up as requested by the EO
- Ensure grounds or centre maintenance work does not disturb exam candidates in exam rooms
- Ensure fire alarm testing does not take place during exam sessions

#### **Invigilators**

- Conduct exams in every exam room according to JCQ Instructions for conducting examinations and/or awarding body requirements and as instructed by the centre in training/update and briefing sessions

#### **Candidates**

- Are required to follow the instructions given to them in exam rooms by authorised centre staff and invigilators
- Are required to remain in the exam room for the full duration of the exam

#### **Invigilators**

- Record any incidents or irregularities on the exam room incident log (for example, late/very late arrival, candidate or centre staff suspected malpractice, candidate illness or needing to leave the exam room temporarily, disruption or disturbance in the exam room, emergency evacuation)

## **Candidates**

The centre's published rules on acceptable dress, behaviour and candidates' use of mobile phones, smart watches and other electronic devices apply at all times.

Candidates' personal belongings remain their own responsibility and the centre accepts no liability for their loss or damage.

Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Candidates are expected to stay for the full examination time at the discretion of the Examinations Officer.

Candidates may only leave the examination room for a genuine purpose and are required to return immediately to the examination room. They must be accompanied by a member of staff at all times.

The Examinations Officer is responsible for handling late or absent candidates on examination day or subsequently. Administrative staff will attempt to contact any candidate who is not present at the start of an examination.

## **Clash Candidates**

The Examinations Officer will be responsible for any arrangements that need to be made.

## **Special Consideration**

Should a candidate be ill before an examination, suffer bereavement or other trauma, be taken ill during the examination itself or otherwise disadvantaged or disturbed during an examination, then it is the candidate's responsibility to alert the Examinations Officer, or an invigilator, to that effect.

The candidate must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence within five days of the examination, for example by providing a letter from the candidate's doctor.

The Examinations Officer will then forward a completed special consideration form to the relevant awarding body within seven days of the examination.



## Internal Assessments and Appeals

### Internal assessment and endorsements

#### **Head of centre**

##### **Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments**

- Ensures arrangements are in place to co-ordinate and standardise all marking of centre- assessed components and ensures that candidates' centre-assessed work is produced, authenticated and marked, or assessed and quality assured in accordance with the awarding bodies' instructions (including where relevant, private candidates)
- Ensures that teaching staff, in accordance with awarding bodies' instructions, return all subject-specific forms by the required date
- Provides fully qualified teachers to mark non-examination assessments, and/or fully qualified assessors for the verification of centre-assessed components
- Ensures an **internal appeals procedure** relating to internal assessment decisions is in place for a candidate to appeal against and request a review of the centre's marking (see Roles and responsibilities overview)
- Ensures a **non-examination assessment policy** is in place for GCE and GCSE qualifications which include components of non-examination assessment (For CCEA GCSE centres this would be a controlled assessment policy)
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#### **Internal Assessment (Non Examined Assessment)**

It is the duty of Heads of Department to ensure that all Non Examined Assessment is ready for despatch at the correct time. The Assistant Examinations Officer will assist by keeping a record of each despatch, including the recipient details and the date and time sent.

Marks for all internally assessed work are provided to the Examinations Officer by the Heads of Department via the electronic system.

#### **Appeals Against Internal Assessments**

The process for managing appeals against Non Examined Assessment is detailed in a separate appeals policy, available from the examinations office.

The main points are:

- Appeals will only be entertained if they apply to the process leading to an assessment. It is possible to appeal against the mark or grade awarded.
- Candidates may appeal if they feel their work has been assessed unfairly, inconsistently or not in accordance with the specification for the qualification.
- Appeals should be made in writing by 30 May, to the Head of Centre, who will decide whether the process used conformed to the necessary requirements.
- The Head of Centre's findings will be notified in writing, copied to the Examinations Officer and recorded for awarding body inspection.

## Results

### Results, Enquiries About Results (EARs) and Access to Scripts (ATS)

#### Head of centre

- Ensures results are kept entirely confidential and restricted to key members of staff until the official dates and times of release of results to candidates
- Understands that it is not permitted to withhold provisional results from candidates under any circumstances

#### Exams officer

- Informs candidates in advance of when and how results will be released to them for each exam series
- Accesses results from awarding bodies under restricted release of results, where this is provided by the awarding body
- Resolves any missing or incomplete results with awarding bodies
- Issues statements of results to candidates on issue of results date
- Provides summaries of results for relevant centre staff on issue of results date

Candidates will receive individual result slips on results days at the centre.

If a candidate is unable to collect in person a letter must be given in advance to the exams officer informing them of who will be collecting on their behalf. A form of identification must be brought with as well.

Arrangements for the centre to be open on results days are made by the Head of Centre.

The provision of staff on results days is the responsibility of the Head of Centre.

#### Enquiries about Results- EARs

Any student who wants to query a grade/mark awarded by an Awarding Body upon issue of results should adhere to the following procedure:

Contact the Examinations Officer **and** the subject teacher as soon as possible (but **at least 5 working days before the published deadline for EAR's**) in person, to discuss the mark/grade. The examinations Officer will advise on the options available to query the mark/grade, and the costs involved.

Students should be aware that EAR's can result in marks/grades being raised, confirmed or lowered. Students must sign a consent form, to confirm that they understand the consequences of an EAR. Consent forms will be issued by the Examinations Officer.

The subject teacher will review the student's marks/grades and discuss with the Head of Department to agree on appropriate action taking into account the breakdown of marks; the grade boundaries; and the student's predicted grades.

**If the department agrees to support the EAR:**

The request, together with the student's consent form, should be presented to the Examinations Officer **before the published deadline for EAR's**. The cost of the enquiry will be met by the Student. If the EAR is successful, the fee will be refunded.

**If the Department does NOT agree to support the EAR:**

A student may appeal against the decision not to support an EAR. Appeals should be made in writing to the Examinations Officer **at least 5 working days before the published deadline for EAR's**. The appeal should state in detail the reason(s) for the appeal. This appeal should be signed, dated and should include a daytime contact telephone number of the student, parent or guardian. The appeal information will be reviewed by the Examinations Officer and a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The outcome of the appeal will be communicated by telephone and first-class post within 24 hour of receipt. This decision is final.

If the Centre does not support the EAR, the student may still proceed with the EAR, but all costs involved will be paid by the student at the time the EAR is made. No EAR's will be made until fees are paid. Requests must be made in person to the Examinations Officer before the published deadline for EAR's. If the enquiry is successful, the fee will be refunded to the student.

Outcomes following EAR's will be forwarded by the Examinations Officer to the student as soon as they have been received from the Awarding Body.

EARs may be requested by centre staff if there are reasonable grounds for believing there has been an error in marking. They must obtain the approval of the Head of Centre.

Where centre staff have not requested an EAR, a candidate may apply to have an enquiry carried out, for which they will be charged.

**ATS**

After the release of results, candidates may request the return of papers, for which they will be charged.

Centre staff may request scripts for investigation or for teaching purposes, with the approval of the Head of Centre. The signed consent of candidates must be obtained.

Re-marks cannot be applied for once an original script has been returned.

**Certificates**

Certificates are or collected from the examinations office at a later date.

Certificates can be collected on behalf of a candidate by third parties, provided they have been authorised to do so.

The centre retains certificates for one year.

Head of Centre

Examinations Officer

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Date

Date

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The policy is next due for review on 27/10/2022