



## Exam Policy

### 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 Policy, and other relevant exams-related policies, procedures and plans are signposted
- 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 and will be placed on the school website.

### Roles and responsibilities overview

**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. This individual must have the authority to deploy the necessary resources to ensure that the centre is always compliant in meeting those published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements.

Heads of Centre must ensure that senior leadership teams and exam office personnel familiarise themselves with the entire contents of JCQ *General Regulations for Approved Centres* booklet. In particular, Heads of Centre must familiarise themselves with sections 5.1, 5.3 and 5.4.

Heads of Centre must ensure that relevant member of staff respond promptly to requests for information from awarding bodies relating to the administration and conducting or examinations/assessments.

**The Examinations Officer** is the person appointed by the Head of Centre to act on behalf of, and be the main point of contact for, the centre in matters relating to the general administration of awarding body examinations and assessments.

**The Head of Centre may not appoint themselves as the Examinations Officer.** A Head of Centre and an Examinations Officer are two distinct and separate roles. (GR, section 2)

### 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 the *Instructions for conducting examinations* booklet.** Failure to do so may constitute malpractice as defined in the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures, 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022*:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice> (ICE Introduction)

### Head of Centre

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
  - General Regulations for Approved Centres (GR)
  - Instructions for Conducting Examinations (ICE)
  - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AA)
  - Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures (SM)
  - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (NEA) (and the instructions for conducting coursework)
  - A guide to the special consideration process (SC)
- Ensures the Centre has appropriate accommodation to support the size of the cohorts being taught, including appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements for exams and assessments.
- Takes responsibility for confirming, on an annual basis, alongside the Examinations Officer, that they are adhering to the latest version of the JCQ's regulations in terms of updating The National Centre Number Register. 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, could 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.
- Ensures the recruitment, selection and training of exam staff is up to date and relevant and retains a workforce of an appropriate size and competence, including sufficient managerial and

other resources, 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 Additional Learning Support Lead (ALS)/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.
- 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. See Escalation Policy.
- Ensures that the integrity and security of examinations and assessments is maintained throughout an examination series and can confirm this to an awarding body.
- Ensures Centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO.
- Makes sure that a teacher, a teaching assistant, a tutor or a senior member of Centre staff who teaches the subject being examined, or a Learning Support Assistant who has supported one or more candidates, is not an invigilator during the examination.
- 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.
- Complies with local health and safety rules which are in place and that the centre is adequately covered for public liability claims.
- 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 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, one of whom must be the EO
  - 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 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 papers 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.

- 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.
- 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 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 of any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, are immediately reported to the awarding body.
- Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place (that allow the Senior Leadership Team to act immediately in the event of an emergency or staff absence.) See Contingency Policy.
- Ensures required internal appeals procedures are in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and (where relevant) their parents/carers. See Appeals Policies.
- 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. See Equalities Policy.
- Ensures a Complaints and Appeals procedure covering general complaints regarding the Centre's delivery or administration of a qualification is in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers. See Appeals Policies.
- Ensures the Centre has a Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy in place, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements. See Child Protection/Safeguarding Policies.
- Ensures the Centre has a Data Protection Policy in place that complies with General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 regulations. See Data Protection Policy.
- Ensures the Centre has a processes in place relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments. See Access Arrangements Policy.

- 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 or Centre 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 advise parents/carers/candidates to contact awarding bodies/JCQ directly nor provide them with addresses/email addresses of awarding body examining/assessment personnel or JCQ personnel.
- 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 ensures staff respond promptly to actions 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 themselves with a photo ID card and must be accompanied throughout their tour of the premises, including inspection of the Centre's secure storage facility.
- Ensures that relevant members of staff respond promptly to actions raised by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, understanding that failure to do so could result in penalties.
- Ensures that the Centre promptly reports any incidents to the relevant awarding body/bodies which might compromise any aspect of assessment delivery such as a cyber-attack.
- 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 the Exams Officer has sufficient time to perform their role and familiarise themselves with relevant awarding body and JCQ documentation.

### **Exams Officer**

- Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ publications including:  
General Regulations for Approved Centres  
Instructions for Conducting Examinations  
Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures  
Post-results services (PRS)  
A guide to the Special Consideration process.
- Completes/submits the National Centre Number Register annual update (administered on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies by OCR <https://ocr.org.uk/administration/ncn-annual-update/>) by the end of October each year.
- 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 thorough and rigorous training provided to invigilators for the required period.
- Works with the Additional Learning Support (ALS) lead/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 (where required) 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 for each examination series.
- Ensures that at least two and no more than six members of Centre staff are authorised as keyholders to restrict access to secure materials, including electronic material, one of whom must be the Exams Officer.
- 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.

### **Additional Learning Support (ALS) lead/Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)**

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:  
Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments
- Leads on the Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments process (referred to in this policy as 'Access Arrangements')
- If not the qualified access arrangements assessor, works with the person appointed, on all matters relating to assessing candidates and ensures the correct procedures are followed.
- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification.

### **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, 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

### **Candidates**

Where applicable in this policy, the term 'candidates' refers to candidates and/or their parents/carers.

## **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 GR, ICE, AA, SM, NEA (and the *Instructions for conducting coursework*) and SC.

##### **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).

##### **Senior Leaders**

- Respond (or ensure teaching staff respond) to requests from the EO on information gathering.
- Meet the internal deadline for the return of information.
- Inform 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.
- Note 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 a written process is in place to not only check the qualification(s) of the appointed assessor(s) but that the correct procedures are followed as per Chapter 7 of the JCQ publication Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments. See Access Arrangements Policy.
- Ensures the ALS lead/SENCo is fully supported in effectively implementing access arrangements and reasonable adjustments once approved.
- Provides cover sheets for access arrangement candidates' scripts where required for particular arrangements.
- Has a process in place to deal with emergency/temporary access arrangements as they arise at the time of exams.
- Applies for approval through Access Arrangements Online (AAO) where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO.

### ALS lead/SENCo

- Assesses candidates (or works with the appropriately qualified assessor as appointed by the Head of Centre) to identify access arrangements/reasonable adjustments 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 from examination candidate (aged 13 or over) 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. See Word Processor Policy.
- Provide a statement for inspection purposes which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations. See Word Processor Policy.

- Ensures criteria for candidates granted **separate invigilation within the Centre** is clear, meets JCQ regulations and best meets the needs of individual candidates and remaining candidates in main exam rooms, as well as follows the centres policy not to have single invigilators in external premises.

### **Senior Leaders and Teaching staff**

- Support the ALS lead/SENCo in determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements/reasonable adjustments.

### **Internal assessment and endorsements including controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments**

#### **Head of Centre**

- Ensures appropriate controls are in place which allow accurate data to be submitted to the awarding bodies, e.g. internally assessed marks.
- 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 and Fair Assessment Policy is in place, which reference the JCQ Document *AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the integrity of Qualifications*.
- Ensures any irregularities relating to the production of work by candidates are investigated and dealt with internally if discovered prior to a candidate signing the authentication statement (where required) or reported to the awarding body if a candidate has signed the authentication statement.
- Ensures procedures are in place for candidates to appeal internal assessment decisions and make requests for reviews of marking.

#### **Exams Officer**

- Identifies relevant key dates and administrative processes that need to be followed in relation to internal assessment.
- Signposts teaching staff to relevant JCQ Information for candidates documents and any relevant JCQ documentation that are annually updated.
- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments and practical endorsements.

- Submits marks, endorsement grades and samples to awarding bodies/moderators/monitors to meet the external deadline.
- Keeps a record to track what has been sent.
- Logs moderated samples returned to the Centre.
- Ensures teaching staff are aware of the requirements in terms of retention and subsequent disposal of candidates' work.

### **Senior Leaders**

- Ensure teaching staff have the necessary and appropriate knowledge, understanding, skills, and training to set tasks, conduct task taking, and to assess, mark and authenticate candidates' work (including where relevant, private candidates).
- Ensure appropriate internal moderation, standardisation and verification processes are in place.
- Ensure teaching staff delivering AQA Applied General qualifications, OCR Cambridge Nationals, Entry Level Certificate or Project qualifications (and CCEA GCE unitised AS and A-level qualifications and WJEC GCE legacy AS and A-level Health & Social Care) follow JCQ Instructions for conducting coursework and the specification provided by the awarding body.
- Ensure teaching staff delivering GCE & GCSE specifications (which include components of non-examination assessment) follow JCQ Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments and the specification provided by the awarding body.
- For other qualifications, ensure teaching staff follow appropriate instructions issued by the awarding body.
- Ensure teaching staff assess and authenticate candidates' work to the awarding body requirements.
- Ensure teaching staff assess endorsed components according to awarding body requirements.
- Ensure teaching staff provide marks for internally assessed components and grades for endorsements of qualifications to the EO to the internal deadline.
- Ensure teaching staff provide required samples of work for moderation and sample recordings for monitoring to the EO to the internal deadline.
- Ensure teaching staff inform candidates of their centre assessed marks as a candidate may request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body.

### **Teaching staff**

- Ensure appropriate instructions for conducting internal assessment are followed.
- Ensure candidates are aware of JCQ and awarding body information for candidates on producing work that is internally assessed (coursework, non-examination assessments, social media) prior to assessments taking place.
- Support the ALS lead/SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments and practical endorsements.
- Assess and authenticate candidates' work.
- Assess endorsed components.
- Ensure candidates are informed of centre assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to awarding bodies.

### **Candidates**

- Authenticate their work as required by the awarding body.

## **Entries**

### **Exams Officer**

- Requests estimated or early entry information, where this may be required by awarding bodies, from Subject Leaders 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.
- Requests final entry information from Subject Leaders in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met.
- Informs Subject Leaders of subsequent deadlines for making changes to final entry information without charge.
- Confirms with Subject Leaders 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 entry information requested by the EO to the internal deadline.
- Inform the EO immediately of any subsequent changes to entry information.
- 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.

## **Late entries**

### **Exams Officer**

- Has clear entry procedures in place to minimise the risk of late entries.
- Charges any late or other penalty fees to departmental budgets.

### **Senior Leaders**

- Minimise the risk of late entries by

- following procedures identified by the EO in relation to making final entries on time
- meeting internal deadlines identified by the EO for making final entries.

### **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.

### **Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments**

#### **Exams Officer**

- Facilitates Access Arrangements for candidates as normal practice throughout the school year.

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

- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access to exams/assessments for candidates where they are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act (unless a temporary emergency arrangement is required at the time of an exam).
- Ensures a candidate is involved in any decisions about arrangements, adjustments and /or adaptations that may be put in place for him/her.
- Ensures exam information (JCQ information for candidates' documents, individual exam timetable etc.) is adapted where this may be required for a disabled candidate to access it.
- Allocates appropriately trained Centre staff to facilitate access arrangements for candidates in exams and assessments (ensuring that the facilitator appointed meets JCQ requirements and fully understands the rule of the access arrangement.)
- Where relevant, ensures the necessary and appropriate steps are undertaken to gather an appropriate picture of need and demonstrate normal way of working for a private candidate (including distance learners and home educated candidates) and that the candidate is assessed by the Centre's appointed assessor.

### **Briefing candidates**

#### **Exams Officer**

- Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates and informs candidates of any designated contingency day awarding bodies may identify in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams
- Facilitates Access Arrangements for candidates
- 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
  - the post-results services and how the centre deals with requests from candidates
  - when and how certificates will be issued

## **Invigilation**

### **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 instructions for conducting exams 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.
- Provides an annually reviewed/updated invigilator handbook to invigilators, trains new invigilators on appointment and updates experienced invigilators on any regulation changes and any changes to centre-specific processes.
- 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, ensure all relevant rules are being adhered to and to support 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 ALS lead/SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of candidates with access arrangements.

- Ensures invigilators supervising candidates with access arrangement 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).
- Ensures invigilators are briefed on the candidates with access arrangement in their exam room and made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded (ensuring these candidates are identified on the seating plan) and confirms invigilators understand what is and what is not permissible.
- Collects evaluation of training to inform future events.

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

- Liaises with the EO regarding facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates.

#### **Invigilators**

- Provide information as requested on their availability to invigilate throughout an exam series.

#### **JCQ Centre Inspections**

##### **Exams Officer or Senior leader**

- Will accompany the Inspector throughout a visit.

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

or relevant **Senior leader which could be the Exams Officer** (in the absence of the ALS lead/SENCo)

- Will meet with the inspector when requested to provide documentary evidence regarding access arrangement candidates and address any questions the inspector may raise.
- Ensures that information is readily available for inspection at the venue where the candidate is taking the exam(s).

#### **Seating and identifying candidates in exam rooms**

##### **Exams Officer**

- Ensures a procedure is in place to verify the identity of all candidates. This will consist of photocards for each student. Private candidates will need to provide some form of photo ID.
- Ensures invigilators are aware of the procedure.
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms according to JCQ and awarding body requirements (and ensures candidates with access arrangements are identified on the seating plan and invigilators are informed of those candidates with access arrangements and made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded) .

##### **Invigilators**

- Follow the procedure for verifying candidate identity provided by the EO.
- Seat candidates in exam rooms as instructed by the EO/on the seating plan.

## **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 named and 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**

### **Head of Centre**

- Ensures venues used for conducting exams meet the requirements of JCQ and awarding bodies

### **Exams Officer**

- Produces a master Centre exam timetable for each exam series.



- Identifies and resolves candidate's exam timetable clashes according to the regulations (only applying overnight supervision arrangements as a last resort, once all other options have been exhausted, seeking advice from Awarding Bodies should this occur).
- 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.

#### **Candidate absence**

##### **Exams Officer**

- Attempt to contact all candidates who are absent from exams for unauthorised reasons within an hour of the start of the exam.

##### **Invigilators**

- Are informed of the policy/process for dealing with absent candidates through training.
- Ensure that confirmed absent candidates are clearly marked as such on the attendance register and seating plan.

##### **Candidates**

- Are charged relevant entry fees for unauthorised absence from exams. Charges will be incurred for each exam where an unauthorised absence has occurred and no evidence of special consideration has been made available to the school.

#### **Candidate's late arrival**

##### **Exams Officer**

- Ensures candidates arriving within an hour of the awarding body's published start time can sit their examination and be allowed the full time for their examination.
- Ensures that candidates who arrive very late (more than one hour after the awarding body's published starting time) for an exam are reported to the awarding body by submitting a report on candidate admitted very late to examination room using CAP to timescale.
- Warns candidates that their script may not be accepted by the awarding body

##### **Invigilators**

- Are informed of the policy/process for dealing with late/very late arrival candidates through training.
- Ensure that relevant information is recorded on the exam room incident log.

### **Special Consideration**

- Should a candidate be unable to attend an exam because of illness, suffer bereavement or other trauma, be ill or otherwise disadvantaged or disturbed during an exam, then it is the candidate's responsibility to alert the Centre's Exams Officer to that effect.
- The candidate must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence within a week of the exam or have evidence to hand should exam boards require further evidence.
- The Exams Officer will make a special consideration application to the relevant awarding body within 10 days of the exam.

### **Conducting exams**

#### **Exams Officer**

- Ensures exams are conducted according to JCQ and awarding body instructions.
- Uses an *Exam Day Checklist* to ensure each exam session is fully prepared for, unplanned events can be dealt with and associated follow-up is completed.

### **Dispatch of exam scripts and internal assessments**

#### **Exams Officer**

- Identifies and confirms arrangements for the dispatch of candidate exam scripts with the DfE (STA) 'yellow label service' or the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of the service.
- Dispatches scripts as instructed by JCQ and awarding bodies.
- Keeps appropriate records to track dispatch.

### **Exam papers and materials**

#### **Exams Officer**

- Organises exam question papers and associated confidential resources in date order in the secure storage facility.
- Attaches erratum notices received to relevant sealed question paper packets.
- Collates attendance registers and examiner details in date order.
- Regularly checks mail or email inbox for updates from awarding bodies.
- In order to avoid potential breaches of security, ensures care is taken to ensure the correct question paper packets are opened by ensuring a member of centre staff, additional to the person removing the papers from secure storage, e.g. an invigilator, checks the day, date, time, subject, unit/component and tier of entry, if appropriate, immediately before a question paper packet is opened.
- Ensures this additional/second check is recorded.

- Where allowed by the awarding body, only releases exam papers and materials to teaching departments for teaching and learning purposes after the published finishing time of the exam, or until any timetable clash candidates have completed the exam.

## **Exam rooms**

### **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. Water bottles are only permitted without a label and no food is allowed, unless agreed on in advance due to health reasons. See Food and Drink Policy.
- Ensures the Centre's policy on candidates leaving the exam room temporarily is clearly communicated to candidates and staff. This will be for toilet breaks or illness only and must be communicated to the Exams Officer immediately. Phone numbers of Exams Officer to be in each rooms box to be used by invigilators.

### **Exams Officer**

- Ensures exam rooms are set up and conducted as required in the regulations, including the displaying of Warning to Candidates and Unauthorised materials posters.
- 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 this must be 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.

### **Senior Leaders**

- Ensure a documented emergency evacuation procedure for exam rooms is in place, See Emergency Evacuation Policy and Procedure,
- Ensure arrangements are in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance if an exam room is evacuated.
- 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, unless agreed prior to the start of the examination. Candidates who have Extra Time may leave the exam room when they have completed the examination and will not be required to remain in the exam room for the full duration of their Extra Time allowance.

### **Malpractice and Irregularities**

#### **Head of Centre**

- Ensures (as required by an awarding body) any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration before, during or after examinations/assessments (by Centre staff, candidates, invigilators) are investigated and reported to the awarding body **immediately**, by completing the appropriate documentation. See Malpractice Policy.

#### **Senior Leaders**

- Ensure support is provided for the EO and invigilators when dealing with disruptive candidates in exam rooms.
- Ensure that internal disciplinary procedures relating to candidate behaviour are instigated, when appropriate.

#### **Exams Officer**

- Provides an Exam Room Incident Log in all exam rooms for recording any incidents or irregularities.
- Actions any required follow-up and reports to awarding bodies as soon as practically possible after the exam has taken place.
- Shares the Whistleblowing Policy for exams with all relevant staff.

#### **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).
- Are aware of the Centre's Whistleblowing Policy for exams.

## **Special Consideration**

### **Head of Centre and/or Senior Leaders**

- Provide evidence to support eligible applications for special consideration if they deem it necessary.

### **Exams Officer**

- Processes eligible applications for special consideration to awarding bodies.
- Gathers evidence which may need to be provided by other staff in centre or candidates.
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to the external deadline.

### **Candidates**

- Provide appropriate evidence to support special consideration applications, where required.

## **Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities**

### **Internal assessment**

#### **Senior Leaders**

- Ensures teaching staff keep candidates' work, whether part of the moderation sample or not, secure and for the required period stated by JCQ and awarding bodies.
- Ensures work is returned to candidates or disposed of according to the requirements.

### **Managing results day(s)**

#### **Senior Leaders**

- Identify Centre staff who will be involved in the main summer results day(s) and their role.
- Ensures senior members of staff are accessible to candidates after the publication of results so that results may be discussed and decisions made on the submission of any requests for post-results services and ensures candidates are informed of the periods during which centre staff will be available so that they may plan accordingly.

#### **Exams Officer**

- Works with Senior Leaders to ensure procedures for managing the main summer results day(s) (a results day programme) are in place set out annually by the Head of Centre in advance and communicated to all stakeholders.

#### **Site staff**

- Ensure the Centre is open and accessible to Centre staff and candidates, as required for the collection of results.

### **Accessing results**

#### **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.

### **Post-results services**

#### **Head of Centre**

- Ensures an **internal appeals procedure** is available where candidates disagree with any centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal. See Appeals Policy.
- Ensures that senior members of Centre staff are available immediately after the publication of results.
- Understands that if the Centre has concerns about one of its component/subject cohorts, then requests for reviews of marking should be submitted for all candidates believed to be affected (candidate consent is required as marks and subject grades may be lowered, confirmed or raised).

#### **Exams Officer**

- Provides information to candidates and staff on the services provided by awarding bodies and the fees charged (see also above **Briefing candidates** and **Access to Scripts, Reviews of Results and Appeals Procedures**).
- Publishes internal deadlines for requesting the services to ensure the external deadlines can be effectively met.
- Provides a process to record requests for services and to collect candidate informed consent (**after** the publication of results) and fees where relevant.
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline for the particular service.
- Tracks requests to conclusion and informs candidates and relevant Centre staff of outcomes.
- Updates Centre results information, where applicable.

#### **Teaching staff**

- Meet internal deadlines to request the services and gain relevant candidate informed consent.
- Identify the budget to which fees should be charged.

#### **Candidates**

- Meet internal deadlines to request the services.
- Provide informed consent and fees, where relevant.

## **Analysis of results**

### **Head of Centre**

- Provides analysis of results to appropriate Centre staff.
- Provides results information to external organisations where required.
- Undertakes the secondary school and college (key stage 4/16-18) performance tables *June and September checking exercise* (where applicable).

## **Certificates**

Certificates are provided to Centres by awarding bodies after results have been confirmed.

### **Head of Centre**

- Dispatches certificates on Awards Evening.

### **Exams Officer**

- Collates certificates for dispatch and arranges a register as proof of receipt.

### **Candidates**

- May arrange for certificates to be collected on their behalf by providing the EO with written or email permission/authorisation; authorised persons must provide ID evidence on collection of certificates.

## **Exams review: roles and responsibilities**

### **Exams Officer**

- Provides the SLT with an overview of the exam year, highlighting what went well and what could be developed/improved in terms of exams management and administrative processes within the stages of the exam cycle.
- Collects and evaluates feedback from staff, candidates and invigilators to inform an exams review.

### **Senior Leaders**

- Work with the EO to produce a plan to action any required improvements identified in the review.

## **Retention of records: roles and responsibilities**

### **Exams Officer**

- Keeps records as required by JCQ and awarding bodies for the required period.

Approved/reviewed by	
Mrs N Sampson Mrs P Hearle	
Date of next review	05/11/2024