



EXAMINATIONS POLICY

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1. PURPOSE

The centre is committed to ensuring that the examinations/assessments 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 centre's contingency plan, and other relevant exams-related policies and procedures are signposted to
- the workforce is well informed and supported
- all centre staff involved in the 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 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. It will be kept centrally in a shared area on the network.

2. PRACTICE

2.1 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 members of staff respond promptly to requests for information from awarding bodies relating to the administration and conducting of examinations/assessments. (GR, section 1) Failure to do so could result in the centre not receiving or being able to access question papers and other confidential assessment materials. Ultimately, awarding bodies could withdraw approval of the centre.

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.

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 2025 to 31 August 2026*: [Malpractice Sep25 FINAL.pdf](#) (Malpractice Policy)

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ documents including:
 - a) A guide to the special consideration process;
 - b) Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments;
 - c) AI Use in Assessments: Your role in protecting the integrity of qualifications;
 - d) Guidance for centres on cyber security;
 - e) Instructions for conducting coursework;
 - f) Instructions for conducting examinations;
 - g) Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (GCE and GCSE specifications);
 - h) Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (Vocational and Technical Qualifications);
 - i) Notice to Centres – Informing candidates of their centre-assessed marks;
 - j) Plagiarism in Assessments – Guidance for Teachers/Assessors;
 - k) Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures
- Ensures the centre has appropriate accommodation to support the size of the cohorts being taught including appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements and/or practical assessments.
- Where/if using a third party to deliver any part of a qualification (including its assessments or the administration) at the centre:
 - maintains oversight of, and responsibility for, the delivery and administration of the qualification in accordance with JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements
 - must monitor that the third party has appropriate capacity and capabilities to comply with its arrangements for the delivery of all qualifications.
 - must have in place a robust written agreement with the third party that includes provisions which ensure that qualifications are delivered in a way that complies with their agreement with the awarding body. This will ensure there is a shared understanding of the arrangement and will manage the risk of failure by the third party to deliver the expected service. The centre must ensure that a copy of the written agreement is available for inspection if requested by the awarding body
 - must monitor delivery by the third party to maintain compliance with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements, ensuring the security and integrity of examinations and assessments. Sufficient managerial and other resources must be in place to resolve any issues
- 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 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/carers/candidates to contact awarding bodies/JCQ directly nor provide them with addresses/email addresses of awarding body examining/assessment personnel or JCQ personnel

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National Centre Number Registration

- Provides contact details as follows:
 - a physical address to which all examination and assessment materials will be despatched – this must be the registered address of the centre
 - a landline telephone number – this must be the number of the main office/ switchboard of the centre
 - a contact email address for communications – this must be the email address of the person or team responsible for the administration of examinations (Personal email addresses such as 'Yahoo', 'Hotmail' and 'Gmail' are not acceptable)
Note: Except for WJEC, if this is a shared email account it must not be used to access awarding body secure websites
 - the name of the head of centre and their email address
 - senior designated contact details (this might include a personal mobile number and/or email address) (These must be the contact details of someone who can be reached in an emergency if the centre is closed over the summer and who can mobilise resources to respond to the issue)
 - Completes the National Centre Number Register annual update by the end of October every year even if there are no changes to centre details (the Register is administered by OCR on behalf of the JCQ awarding bodies AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, NCFE, OCR, Pearson and WJEC); informs the National Centre Number Register Team immediately (email address – ncn@ocr.org.uk) if any changes occur after the National Centre Number Register annual update has taken place. This must be on centre headed stationery which can be sent as an email attachment including the signature of the head of centre
 - informs the National Centre Number Register Team (email address – ncn@ocr.org.uk) no later than 6 weeks prior to moving to a new address or relocation of the secure storage facility. This must be on centre headed stationery which can be sent as an email attachment; (As a result of this notification a centre inspection will take place.)
 - informs the National Centre Number Register Team immediately of any other changes in circumstances that could affect their centre status;
 - completes the National Centre Number Register Head of Centre Declaration by the end of October every year confirming they are aware of and adhering to the latest versions of the JCQ regulations;
 - responds to any other reasonable requests made by the National Centre Number Register Team;
- (GR 1.9) Understands that this responsibility for completing the Head of Centre declaration survey 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, the head of centre's declaration and/ or requests or actions raised by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, 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

Resilience and contingency arrangements

(GR 3.16-19)

The centre must ensure they are familiar with the regulators' guidance on ensuring resilience in the qualifications system. Centres should consider putting in place a process for gathering and securely retaining evidence of candidate performance in line with the published guidance.

In the unlikely event that the government determines that examinations cannot go ahead, centres will need evidence of candidate assessment performance, such as mock examinations, to enable alternative methods of awarding grades.

The centre must have an up to date written contingency plan.

The contingency plan must cover all aspects of examination/assessment administration and delivery. Senior leaders must have robust contingency arrangements in place that will minimise the risk to examination/assessment administration and delivery and any adverse impact on candidates.

The plan must cover the following scenarios:

- the head of centre, relevant senior leader(s) with oversight of examination and assessment administration, SENCo/ALNCo, examinations officer or any other key staff essential to the examination process being absent at a critical stage of the examination cycle
- the potential impact of other events such as flooding which could lead to all or parts of the centre becoming unavailable
- potential issues with the centre's IT systems.

As part of their contingency plan centres must identify an alternative site which can be used if examinations cannot be conducted at the registered address. Larger centres may require more than one potential alternative site or different sites for different Year Groups.

The centre must have at least one senior member of staff (senior designated contact) who is available to manage emergency requests from awarding bodies that are results related during the summer holidays. However, a number of contacts can be provided to reduce the risk of this falling on one individual throughout the summer holidays.

The centre must ensure that candidates' work is backed-up and should consider the contingency of candidates' work being backed-up on two separate devices, including one off-site back-up. Centres must implement appropriate security arrangements which protect candidates' work in the event of IT system corruption and cyber-attacks.

Cyber security

(GR 3.20-21)

The head of centre must ensure there are procedures in place to maintain the security of user accounts by:

- ensuring that all members of centre staff who access awarding bodies' online systems undertake annual cyber security training. Suitable training resources can be found on the website of the National Cyber Security Centre:
- The training must include:
 - the importance of creating strong, unique passwords for all accounts;
 - keeping all account details strictly confidential;
 - the critical role of Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) in protecting against unauthorised access;
 - how to properly set up and use MFA for both centre and awarding bodies' systems;
 - an awareness of all types of social engineering/phishing attempts;
 - the importance of staff quickly reporting any suspicious activity, events, incidents and encouraging a safe and supportive reporting culture.
- A register of staff who have completed the annual online Cyber Security training will be held on file and available for inspection.
- Ensuring that a comprehensive cyber security policy is set up for the centre. implementing and enforcing robust security measures, including:
 - mandatory MFA for all accounts and systems containing exam-related information, including those that interface between awarding body and centre systems, to enhance security and protect sensitive data;
 - regularly reviewing and updating security settings to align with current best practices
- updating any passwords that may have been exposed;
- setting up secure account recovery options;
- reviewing and managing connected applications;
- monitoring accounts and regularly reviewing account access, including removing access when no longer required;
- ensuring authorised members of staff securely access awarding bodies' online systems in line with awarding body regulations regarding cyber security and the JCQ document Guidance for centres on cyber security: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/general-regulations>
- Authorised staff will have access, where necessary, to a device which complies with awarding bodies' MFA requirements.

- reporting any actual or suspected compromise of an awarding body's online systems immediately to the relevant awarding body.

Recruitment, selection, training and support

Ensures the centre has appropriate accommodation to support the size of the cohorts being taught

- 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 and ensure that the centre's contingency planning must include succession arrangements for members of staff involved in examination and assessment administration.
- Provides fully qualified teachers to mark non-examination assessments, and/or fully qualified assessors for the verification of centre-assessed components
- Ensures that teaching staff do not use artificial intelligence (AI) as the sole means of marking candidates' work
- Enables and ensures that the relevant senior leader(s), the examinations officer (EO) and the SENCo (or equivalent role) receives 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 and awarding body regulations, such as attending an annual update course.
- Ensures that the SENCo (or equivalent role) understands the JCQ document Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments and is given sufficient time to manage the access arrangements process within the centre
- Ensures that the examinations officer understands relevant awarding body and JCQ documentation and has sufficient time to perform their role
- Ensures that any member(s) of the senior leadership team who are responsible for examination administration familiarise themselves with relevant awarding body and JCQ documentation (This will ensure the examinations officer and the SENCo are supported as well as ensuring effective centre decision making in line with the published regulations)
- Ensures that teachers understand the relevant awarding body and JCQ documentation for the qualifications they are delivering to ensure they are delivered in line with the relevant regulations

External and 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:
If the Head of Centre or Member of SLT with oversight of examinations (Assistant Headteacher for Data and Exams) the responsibility falls to the Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum or Safeguarding).
- Can confirm to an awarding body the external governance arrangements so that the awarding body has confidence in the integrity of centre activities such as the delivery of qualifications and the conducting of examinations and assessments
- 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
- 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
- ***See Appendix 1 for full escalation process***

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

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candidates capable of undertaking them and seeking reasonable adjustments for disabled candidates

- enables candidates to receive sufficient and up to date practical experience or relevant training where required by the subject;

Public Liability

- Complies with local health and safety rules which are in place and that the centre is adequately covered for public liability claims

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 security of all assessment materials
 - that assessment materials supplied to the centre by the awarding body, including pre-release materials and set assignments, and information about their contents are only shared with appropriate centre staff and candidates and are not shared outside the centre
 - reporting immediately to the awarding body/bodies any potential or actual breach of examination or assessment materials
- 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 document *Instructions for conducting examinations*
 - access, download, print (where appropriate) and store electronic assessment materials safely and securely at all times in accordance with section 4 of the current JCQ document *Instructions for conducting examinations*
 - 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
- Provides candidates access to relevant pre-release materials on, or as soon as possible after, the date specified by the awarding bodies

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 of any cases immediately of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, 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

Policies available for inspection

- Has in place the following policies for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually:

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- a written child protection/safeguarding policy in place, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements

Personal data

(GR 6.6, 6.8)

It is the responsibility of centres to inform candidates of the processing that the centre undertakes. For example, that the centre will provide relevant personal data including name, date of birth, gender to the awarding bodies for the purpose of examining and awarding qualifications.

Materials which are submitted by candidates for assessment may include any form of written work, audio and visual materials, computer programmes and data ("Student Materials"). Awarding bodies may use the Student Materials to evaluate candidates' performance in the relevant assessment. They may also use the Student Materials for other purposes as outlined in their privacy policies and in accordance with their terms. Candidates should be directed to the relevant awarding body's privacy notice if they require further information about how their Student Materials may be used by the awarding body.

Where a centre or third party is in possession of any Student Materials for the purposes of candidate assessment, the Student Materials will be held on behalf of the awarding body.

Malpractice Policy (Exams)

- Refer to GR (section 5.3) **Policies available for inspection**

Also refer to the JCQ document **AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications** (<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice>) to update the centre's malpractice/plagiarism policy to acknowledge the use of AI (e.g. what it is, the risks of using it, what AI misuse is, how this will be treated as malpractice, when it may be used and how it should be acknowledged) – most simply by referencing this document

- 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 where the head of centre, the examinations officer or SENCo is absent at a critical stage of the examination cycle)
The examination contingency plan should reinforce procedures in the event of the centre being unavailable for examinations owing to an unforeseen emergency.
All relevant centre staff must be familiar with the examination contingency plan. Consideration should be given as to how these arrangements will be communicated to candidates, parents and staff should disruption to examinations occur.
- Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place (that allows the Head of Centre to act immediately in the event of an emergency or staff absence). See "**Exam Contingency Policy**" and "**Lockdown Policy**"
- Ensures required internal appeals procedures are in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and (where relevant) their parents/carers. See "**Internal Appeals Policy**"
- 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 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 "**Complaints Policy**"
- 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. See "**Access Arrangements Policy**".
- Ensures that all relevant associated policies are in place.

Conflict of Interest

- Ensures the relevant awarding bodies are informed of any Conflict of Interest before the published deadline for entries for each examination series 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 a personal connection to the candidate
- Maintains 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 have a personal connection 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

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 within the stipulated timeframe
- 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

“The examinations officer or quality assurance co-ordinator is the person appointed by a head of centre to act on behalf of the centre in matters relating to the administration of awarding body examinations and assessments.”

Exams officer

- Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ documents including:
 - *General regulations for approved centres*
 - *Instructions for conducting examinations*
 - *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments*
 - *Post-results services (PRS)*
 - A guide to special considerations 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 even if there are no changes to centre details.

- 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; keeps a record of the training provided to invigilators for the required period
- Ensures awarding bodies are notified before the associated entries are submitted, where a candidate is being taught and prepared for examinations and assessments by a relative or where a relative of exams office staff is being entered for examinations and assessments
- Briefs other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential materials on the requirements for maintaining the integrity and security of confidential examination/assessment materials
- Keeps records as required by JCQ and awarding bodies for the required period
- Keeps records as required by the centre's records management policy

Senior leaders (SLT)

- 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 in Examinations and Assessments*
 - Instructions for conducting coursework
 - *Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments* (and the instructions for conducting controlled assessment and coursework)
 - A guide to special considerations process
 - Post-Results Services
- 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

Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo)

- Is familiar with 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 the administration of the assessment process
 - Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification
 - Ensures any applications for access arrangements or reasonable adjustments are submitted by the published deadline (The SENCo will hold on file appropriate documentary evidence to substantiate such an arrangement, which is open to inspection. For those qualifications covered by Access Arrangements Online, a JCQ Centre Inspector will sample a centre's applications)
 - Ensures a file is presented which must contain for each online application the downloaded approval for the respective arrangement(s), supporting evidence of need (This information

must be readily available for inspection at the venue where the candidate is taking the examination(s)

- Ensures requests for modified papers are submitted by the published deadline
- Ensures there are appropriate resources in place at the time of examinations/assessments to meet candidates' needs, e.g. sufficient readers and scribes

Head of department (HoD)

- Ensures 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 SENCo
- Ensures teaching staff keep themselves updated with awarding body teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Ensures teaching staff attend relevant awarding body training and update events

Teaching staff

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

Invigilators

- Attend training, update, briefing and review sessions as required annually, on current regulations.
- 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 materials and follow the requirements for maintaining the integrity and security of confidential examination/assessment 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.

2.2 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

Secure materials

Head of centre

(GR 3.6)

- Ensures the centre has a secure storage facility in a room solely assigned to examinations (ICE 3)

The secure room and the secure storage facility

The secure room

The secure room must only be used for the purpose of administering secure examination materials. Access to the secure room **must** be restricted to two to six key holders, one of whom **must** be the exams officer. The two to six key holders **must** be permanent members of staff or members of staff who have a formal contract of employment and are subject to standard HR policies and procedures.

The secure storage facility

Access to the secure storage facility **must** be restricted to two to six key holders, one of whom **must** be the exams officer.

The two to six key holders **must** either be part of the exams team or the senior leadership team. A key holder from the exams team **must** be a permanent member of staff or a member of staff who has a formal contract of employment and is subject to standard HR policies and procedures. When the secure storage facility is being accessed for the storage and preparation of secure assessment materials the door to the secure room **must** be closed.

2.3 Information sharing

Head of centre

- Directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including GR, ICE, AA, SMEA and NEA (and the instructions for conducting controlled assessment and coursework)

Exams officer

- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ publications and awarding body documentation relating to the exams process that has 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

2.4 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 mock examinations/formal assessments.

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

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- 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

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

2.5 Access arrangements

Head of centre

- Ensures the centre has documented processes in place relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments
- Ensures the SENCo (or equivalent role) is fully supported in effectively implementing access arrangements and reasonable adjustments once approved

SENCo

- Assesses candidates (or works with the appointed access arrangements assessor) to identify access arrangements/reasonable adjustment 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
- Applies for approval through *Access arrangements online (AAO)*, where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Keeps relevant paperwork and evidence on file for JCQ inspection purposes
- 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 training provided to facilitators for the required period
- Provides and annually reviews a centre policy on the use of word processors in exams and assessments. See “**Word Processor Policy**”
- Ensures that there is a word processor policy in place and implemented.
- 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

Senior Leaders, Head of department, Teaching staff

- Support the SENCo in identifying and implementing appropriate access arrangements/reasonable adjustments

- Senior leaders provide a statement for inspection purposes which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations

2.6 Internal assessment and endorsements

Head of centre

- Ensures that where candidates are taking non-examination assessments, teaching staff check that the tasks and approach being taken are appropriate and in line with ethical standards and the centre's safeguarding responsibilities
- Ensures awarding bodies are notified of a consortium of centres with joint teaching arrangements for qualifications (This will allow the candidates for each specification to be treated as a single group for the moderation of centre- assessed work. This is only required if two or more member centres will be entering candidates for work that is centre-assessed)
- Ensures only current assessment materials/tasks are used to assess candidates' knowledge and skills (in cases where the awarding body provides such material)
- Before submitting marks to the awarding body ensures candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks and allows a candidate to request a review of the centre's marking
- Ensures that all associated administrative tasks are completed in an accurate and timely manner, e.g. marks are correctly calculated, recorded and submitted by the published date (It is the responsibility of the centre to carefully check the marks it is submitting to an awarding body)
- Ensures submission of centre-assessed marks and moderation samples, if required by the awarding body, by the published date (It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that moderators receive the correct samples of work to review)
- Ensures a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions is in place and ensures that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates
- Ensures a written policy regarding the management of non-examination assessments, including controlled assessments and coursework is in place
- Ensures that candidates' work is backed-up and considers the contingency of candidates' work being backed-up on two separate devices, including one off-site back-up (Implementing appropriate security arrangements which protect candidates' work in the event of IT system corruption and cyber-attacks)

Senior leaders/ Head of Department

- 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 relevant qualifications follow JCQ Instructions for conducting coursework and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensure teaching staff delivering GCE and 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
- Ensure teaching staff delivering qualifications which include (wholly or in part) units of coursework follow JCQ Instructions for conducting coursework and the specification provided by the awarding body
- For VTQs qualifications, ensure teaching staff follow appropriate instructions issued by the relevant awarding body
- 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 (controlled assessments, coursework, non-examination assessments, social media) prior to assessments taking place

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- Ensure candidates are informed 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

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 that are annually updated

2.7 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 or to facilitate an access arrangement, that such persons are competent and fully trained, understanding what is and what is not permissible
- Determines if additional invigilators will be deployed in timed Art exams in addition to the subject teacher (one invigilator to every twenty candidates)
- Ensures that, wherever possible 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

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 thorough training for new invigilators on the current instructions for conducting examinations and an 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 are briefed on the access arrangement candidates 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.
- 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)
- Collects evaluation of training to inform future events

2.8 Entries: Roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- Ensures the centre's obligations as detailed in the regulations are met. (With reference to GR 5.6 **Entries**)

2.8.1 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

- Estimated entries are collected via Microsoft forms in September/October and collated in time for estimated entry deadlines.
- Estimated entries are collected by head of departments and are gathered from subject teachers and entry codes are gathered from the specification of each subject. Entries are submitted via awarding bodies websites.

Head of department

- Provides information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- Informs the EO immediately of any subsequent changes to information

2.8.2 Final entries

Head of centre

- Ensures appropriate controls are in place which allow accurate data to be submitted to the awarding bodies, e.g. 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
- Final entries are collated by signed entry lists, checked by heads of department.
- Final entries are submitted to awarding bodies using A2C.
- Observes each awarding body's terms and conditions for the entry and withdrawal of candidates for their examinations and assessments

Head of department

- Provides information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- Informs 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
- Checks final entry submission information provided by the EO and confirms information is correct

2.8.3 Entry fees

Exams officer

- Exam entry fees are paid from the Exams budget which is managed by the Exams Officer.
- Amendment fees/Late entry fees are charged back to department budgets, as these are discouraged and appropriate administrative procedures are in place such as triple checking entry lists and signing, before entries are made in order to avoid such fees.

2.8.4 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

Head of department

- Minimises 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

2.8.5 Re-sit entries

Exams officer

- Resits are managed as they arise, the Exams Officer will ensure all entries are authorised with SLT and any other relevant member of staff e.g. Head of MFL for Language Exams. Students are expected to cover the cost of entry and any invigilator fees. This is explicitly communicated with students and parents/carers.

2.8.6 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

2.9 Pre-exams: roles and responsibilities

2.9.1 Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

SENCo

- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access 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 information, 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 particular 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

2.9.2 Briefing candidates

Exams officer

- Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates and informs candidates of any designated contingency sessions awarding bodies may identify in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams.
- Provides candidates with a candidate handbook.

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- 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 clashes
 - arriving late for an exam
 - absence or illness during exams
 - behaviour expectations
 - what equipment is/is not provided by the centre
 - food and drink in exam rooms
 - unauthorised materials e.g. mobile phones, wrist watches and where they should be stored during exams.
 - 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

Access to scripts, enquiries about results and appeals procedures

- Students receive Review of Results information via the school website .
- A Review of Results information sheet is made available to all students on results day via the school website, this details the following:
 - how they request a service
 - when they will be informed of
 - the services that will be made available by the awarding bodies
 - the deadlines that have to be met
 - the fees that will be charged
 - how they are informed of the outcome of their request
 - the internal appeals procedure to manage disputes when a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a review of results or an appeal

2.9.3 Dispatch of exam scripts

Exams officer

- Identifies and confirms arrangements for the dispatch of candidate exam scripts with the DfE 'yellow label service' or the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of the service

2.9.4 Estimated grades

Head of department

- Ensures teaching staff provide estimated grade information to the EO by the internal deadline (where this still may be required by the awarding body)

Exams officer

- Submits estimated grade information to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline (where this may still be required by the awarding body)
- Keeps a record to track what has been sent

2.9.5 Internal assessment and endorsements

Head of centre

- Ensures procedures are in place for candidates to appeal internal assessment decisions and make requests for reviews of marking

SENCo

- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments and practical endorsements

Teaching staff

- Support the 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

Head of department

- Ensures teaching staff assess and authenticate candidates' work to the awarding body requirements
- Ensures teaching staff assess endorsed components according to awarding body requirements
- Ensures teaching staff provide marks for internally assessed components and grades for endorsements of qualifications to the EO to the internal deadline
- Ensures teaching staff provide required samples of work for moderation and sample recordings for monitoring to the EO to the internal deadline

Exams officer

- 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

Candidates

- Authenticate their work as required by the awarding body

2.9.6 Invigilation

Exams officer

- Provides an annually reviewed/updated invigilator handbook to invigilators, trains new invigilators on appointment and updates experienced invigilators on any regulation changes and any centre-specific processes.
- Deploys invigilators effectively to exam rooms throughout an exam series, including the provision of a roving invigilator to regularly enter and observe the rooms where a candidate and invigilator (acting as a practical assistant, reader, prompt or scribe) are accommodated on a 1:1 basis.
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to a timetable variation) according to the required ratios
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates

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

2.10 JCQ Centre Inspection

Exams officer or Senior leader

- Will accompany the Inspector throughout the visit

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)

2.11 Seating and identifying candidates in exam rooms

Exams officer

- Ensures a procedure is in place to verify candidate identity including private candidates:
Procedure for identifying candidates:
Candidates are gathered in a central area (other than the exam room) by heads of Year and are firstly identified there. As they enter the examination room a member of SLT identifies students again.
Veiled students would be asked to unveil in a private room with a female member of staff, prior to the exam commencing to confirm identity against previously obtained photographic identification.
Private candidates are asked to bring in photo ID and are checked at reception and before they come into the examination room – confirming their DOB with their timetable.
- Ensures invigilators are aware of the procedure
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms according to JCQ and awarding body requirements 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

2.12 Security of exam materials

Exams officer

- Has a process in place to record confidential materials delivered to the centre and issued to authorised staff
- 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)
- At least two and no more than six members of centre staff should be authorised to handle secure electronic materials, one of whom must be the exams officer*. Other members of centre staff may assist with printing and collation provided they are under supervision.
- *For AQA examinations, the member of centre staff authorised to handle secure electronic material must be the main administrator.

Reception staff

- Follow the process to record confidential materials delivered to the centre and issued to authorised staff

Teaching staff

- Adhere to the recording system to track confidential materials taken from or returned to secure storage throughout the time the material is confidential

2.13 Timetabling and rooming

Exams officer

- Produces a master centre exam timetable for each exam series
- Identifies and resolves candidate exam clashes (only applying overnight supervision arrangements in rare and exceptional circumstances and as a last resort)
- Identifies exam rooms and specialist equipment requirements
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to a timetable variation) 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 SENCo regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates

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

2.14 Alternative site arrangements

Exams officer

- 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 using the JCQ *Alternative Site* form of any alternative sites that will be used to conduct timetabled examination components of the qualifications listed in the JCQ regulations

2.15 Transferred candidate arrangements

Exams officer

- Liaises with the host or entering centre, as required
- Processes requests to the awarding body deadline
- Where relevant (for an internal candidate) informs the candidate of the arrangements that have been made for their transferred candidate arrangements

2.16 Internal exams

Exams officer

- Prepares for the conduct of internal exams under external conditions
- Provides a centre exam timetable of subjects and rooms
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms
- Requests internal exam papers from teaching staff
- Arranges invigilation

SENCo

- Liaises with teaching staff to make appropriate arrangements for access arrangement candidates

Teaching staff

- Provide exam papers and materials to the EO
- Support the SENCo in making appropriate arrangements for access arrangement candidates

2.17 Exam time: roles and responsibilities

2.17.1 Access arrangements

Exams officer

- Provides cover sheets for access arrangement candidates' scripts where required for particular arrangements
- Has a process in place to deal with emergency access arrangements as they arise at the time of exams
 - Works with the SENCO to apply for approval through AAO where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

2.17.2 Candidate absence

Exams Officer

- Candidates are made aware via Candidate Handbook and assemblies of what to do if they are likely to be late or absent for an exam.
- Absent students are identified by using the seating plan and attendance register.
- Exams Officer confers with Line Manager over known absences. Office staff contact home to ascertain reason for absence. School supports where appropriate to facilitate students attending 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.

2.17.3 Candidate late arrival

Candidate late arrival procedure before 10am or 2:30pm:

Candidates who arrive late are to be held in reception until a member of SLT or EO can see the candidate. The wellbeing of the candidate is assessed and the candidate is ensured to remain calm and also under supervision as soon as they enter the centre. Once a candidate is prepared to enter the exam room, they are read the start of the examination script (JCQ regulations) and escorted into the correct exam room by SLT or EO. SLT or EO will make the invigilators aware of the late candidate and the start and finish time will be published on the board/given to the student directly to ensure they are aware of their timings.

Candidate very late arrival procedure after 10am or 2:30pm:

Candidates who arrive late are to be held in reception until a member of SLT or EO can see the candidate. The wellbeing of the candidate is assessed and the candidate is ensured to remain calm and also under supervision as soon as they enter the centre. Once a candidate is prepared to enter the exam room, they are read the start of the examination script (JCQ regulations), they are made aware that as they have arrived so late that the awarding body will be made aware and may make the judgement to not accept their script. They are then escorted into the correct exam room by SLT or EO. SLT or EO will make the invigilators aware of the late candidate and the start and finish time will be published on the board/given to the student directly to ensure they are aware of their timings.

Exams officer

- Ensures that candidates who arrive very late for an exam are reported to the awarding body as soon as practically possible after the exam has taken place
- Warns candidates that their work 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

2.17.4 Conducting exams

Head of centre

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

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

2.17.5 Dispatch of exam scripts

Exams officer

- Dispatches scripts as instructed by JCQ and awarding bodies
- Keeps appropriate records to track dispatch

2.17.6 Exam papers and materials

Exams officer

- Organises exam question papers and associated confidential resources in date order in secure storage
- Attaches erratum notices received to relevant exam question paper packets
- Collates attendance registers and examiner details in date order
- Regularly checks mail or inbox for updates from awarding bodies
- In order to avoid potential breaches of security, ensures prior to question paper packets being opened that another member of staff or an invigilator checks the time, date and paper details.
- Ensures this second pair of eyes check is recorded. This is to take place in the exam room where possible.
- Where allowed by the awarding body, only releases exam papers and materials to teaching departments for teaching and learning purposes 24 hours after the published finishing time of the exam, or until any clash candidates have completed the exam.

2.17.7 Exam rooms

Head of centre

- Ensures that prior to exams commencing, internal tests, mock exams, revision or coaching sessions for candidates will not be held in the designated exam room(s)
- Ensures only approved centre staff (who have not taught the subject being examined) are present in exam rooms to perform permitted tasks.
- Ensures information relating to food and drink that may be allowed in exam rooms is clearly communicated to candidates

Food and drink in exam rooms procedure:

Food and drink are not to be brought into the examination room, except for water in a clear plastic bottle.

For exceptional circumstances food may be brought into the exam room if a medical condition states, for example a diabetic requiring sweets/sugary foods in case of a drop in blood sugar levels. This food is to be brought to the EO or invigilator before the examination begins and should be taken out of the original packet and put in a clear plastic packet.

“Food and drink may be allowed in the examination room at the discretion of the head of centre. However, this is on the condition that any food brought into the examination room by the candidate is free from packaging and all labels are removed from drink containers.”

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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)
- 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 how to deal with candidates who may need to leave the exam room temporarily
- 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
- Ensure arrangements are in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance if an exam room is evacuated
- Ensures an emergency evacuation policy is in place and implemented in the case of emergencies.

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 as instructed in training/update events and briefing sessions

Candidates

- Are required to remain in the exam room for the full duration of the exam

2.17.8 Irregularities

Head of centre

- Ensures 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

Managing behaviour:

Head of centre has the authority to remove a candidate from the examination room, but will only do so if the candidate is disrupting remaining candidates in the room and an initial warning has been given, in accordance to ICE regulations. The candidate must also be warned that the awarding body will be informed and may decide to penalise them, which could include disqualification. The invigilator must record what has happened in the incident log.

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

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, disruption or disturbance in the exam room, emergency evacuation)

2.19 Special consideration

Senior leaders

- Provide signed evidence to support eligible applications for special consideration

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
- Ensures a special consideration policy is in place and implemented.

Candidates

- Provide appropriate evidence to support special consideration requests, where required

2.20 Unauthorised materials

Arrangements for unauthorised materials taken into the exam room are to be confiscated and placed on the invigilator desk at the front of the exam room, out of the reach of any candidates and are to be collected at the end of the exam after being spoken to by EO or SLT member.

Invigilators

- Are informed of the arrangements through annual training

2.21 Internal exams

Exams officer

- Briefs invigilators on conducting internal exams
- Returns candidate scripts to teaching staff for marking

Invigilators

- Conduct internal exams as briefed by the EO

2.22 Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities

2.22.1 Internal assessment

Head of department

- 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

2.22.2 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 enquiries 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
- Ensures all candidates are aware of post results and enquiries before they sit any examinations as stated by JCQ regulations. Post results information leaflets are made available to candidate on the website and referred to in their results email along with results

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on results day. Senior leadership members are available on stated days during the results period in order to discuss and gain advice. Post results information is published on the school website for all candidates and parents/carers to view.

Site staff

- Ensure the centre is open and accessible to centre staff and candidates, as required

2.22.3 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
- 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

2.22.4 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 check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal.
- Ensures that senior members of centre staff are available immediately after the publication of results
- Understands that in the event of an awarding body initiating an *extended review of marking*, candidates' marks and subject grades may be lowered, confirmed or raised

Exams officer

- Provides information to all 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 collect candidate informed consent (after the publication of results) and fees where relevant
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline
- 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

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2.22.5 Certificates

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

Issue of certificates procedure and retention:

GCSE usually falls in November and GCE in December. . For candidates who are still on roll at school, they will be invited to collect their certificates and sign a relevant form to confirm receipt. This will be retained by Exams Officer as per JCQ Guidelines. Where candidates are no longer on roll, the certificates will be posted out directly to the candidates at their known address on SIMS. A record of which certificates have been posted will be retained by Exams Officer as per JCQ Guidelines.

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

Retention of certificates policy:

Certificates that are unclaimed/uncollected are destroyed after 12 months of issuing. Information stated on certificates that are destroyed: Student Name, Date of Birth, Subject and Grade Awarded.

2.22.6 Retention of records: roles and responsibilities

Exams officer

- Keeps records as required by JCQ and awarding bodies for the required period
- Keeps records as required by the centre’s records management policy
- Provides an exams archiving policy that identifies information held, retention period and method of disposal

3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Exams officer

- Provides 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 review

Senior leaders

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

4. OTHER RELEVANT POLICES AND DOCUMENTS

No.	Description	Location
1	Escalation process (should the head of centre, or a member of the senior leadership team with oversight of examination and assessment administration, be absent) (GR 5.3)	
2	Child protection/safeguarding policy, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance (which satisfies current legislative requirements) (GR 5.3)	
3	Complaints policy (GR 5.3, 5.8)	
4	Conflicts of interest policy (GR 5.3)	
5	Data protection policy (GR 5.3)	
6	Equalities policy (GR 5.3) (known in school as the diversity and Inclusion policy)	
7	Contingency plan (which covers all aspects of examination/assessment administration and delivery) (GR 3.17, 5.3, ICE 15)	
8	Internal appeals procedure which must cover at least appeals regarding internal assessment decisions, access to post-results services and appeals, and centre	

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	decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration (GR 5.3, 5.7, 5.13)	
9	Malpractice policy which covers all qualifications delivered by the centre (GR 5.3) The policy must detail how candidates are informed and advised to avoid committing malpractice in examinations/assessments, how suspected malpractice issues should be escalated within the centre and reported to the relevant awarding body. It must also acknowledge the use of AI (e.g. what AI is, when it may be used and how it should be acknowledged, the risks of using AI, what AI misuse is and how this will be treated as malpractice).	
10	Policy regarding the management of non-examination assessments including controlled assessments and coursework (GR 5.3, 5.7, NEA 1)	
11	Whistleblowing policy (GR 5.3)	
12	Policy on the use of word processors in examinations (GR 5.3, AARA 5.8)	
13	Process to check the qualifications of the centre's assessor(s) and that the correct procedures are followed (GR 5.4, AARA 7)	
14	Procedures to verify the identity of all candidates at the time of the examination or assessment (GR5.9)	
15	Procedures for how the centre will deal with candidates' requests for access to scripts, clerical rechecks, reviews of marking, reviews of moderation and appeals to the awarding bodies (GR 5.13)	
16	Policy for dealing with an emergency evacuation of the examination room (ICE 25)	

Appendix 1: Escalation Process

Purpose of the process

To confirm the main duties and responsibilities to be escalated should the head of centre, or a member of the senior leadership team with oversight of examination administration, be absent.

Before examinations (Planning)

In the event of the absence of the head of centre or the member of senior leadership with oversight of examination administration, responsibility for implementing JCQ regulations and requirements relating to activity prior to examinations will be escalated to Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum or Students).

To support understanding of the regulations and requirements, the following JCQ publications will be referenced:

- General Regulations for Approved Centres
- Instructions for conducting examinations
- Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments
- Instructions for conducting coursework
- Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments
- Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures
- A guide to the special consideration process

Main duties and responsibilities relate to:

- Third party arrangements
- Centre status
- Confidentiality

- Communication
- Recruitment, selection and training of staff
- Internal governance arrangements
- Delivery of qualifications
- Public liability
- Conflicts of interest
- Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments
- Security of assessment materials
- National Centre Number Register
- Centre inspections
- Policies available for inspection

Before examinations (Entries and Pre-exams)

In the event of the absence of the head of centre or the member of senior leadership with oversight of examination administration, responsibility for implementing JCQ regulations and requirements relating to entries and exam preparation will be escalated to Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum or Safeguarding)

Main duties and responsibilities relate to:

- Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments
- Entries
 - Additional JCQ publications for reference:
 - Key dates
 - Guidance Notes for Transferred Candidates
 - Alternative Site guidance notes
 - Guidance notes for overnight supervision of candidates with a timetable variation
- Centre assessed work
 - Additional JCQ publication for reference:
 - Guidance Notes – Centre Consortium Arrangements
- Candidate information
 - Additional JCQ publications for reference:
 - Information for candidates documents
 - Exam Room Posters

During examinations (Exam time)

In the event of the absence of the head of centre or the member of senior leadership with oversight of examination administration, responsibility for implementing JCQ regulations and requirements relating to during exam time will be escalated to Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum or Safeguarding).

Main duties and responsibilities relate to:

- Conducting examinations and assessments
 - Additional JCQ publication for reference:
 - o Guidance Notes – Very Late Arrival
- Malpractice
- Retention of candidates' work

After examinations (Results and Post-Results)

In the event of the absence of the head of centre or the member of senior leadership with oversight of examination administration, responsibility for implementing JCQ regulations and requirements relating to after examinations will be escalated to Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum or Safeguarding).

Main duties and responsibilities relate to:

- Results
Additional JCQ publication for reference:
 - Release of Results notice
- Post-results services and appeals
Additional JCQ publications for reference:
 - Post-Results Services (Information and guidance to centres)
 - JCQ Appeals Booklet (A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes)
- Certificates