

Newland School for Girls

Exams Policy 2020-21

Purpose of the policy

Newland School for Girls 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 and other relevant examsrelated 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 in accordance with 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.

Roles and responsibilities overview

"The head of centre is the individual who is accountable to the awarding bodies for ensuring that the centre is compliant with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements in order to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/assessments at all times.

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."

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)

<u>Instructions for conducting examinations</u> (ICE)

Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AA)

Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments (SMEA)

- <u>Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments</u> (NEA) (and the instructions for conducting controlled assessment and coursework)
- 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, that they are aware of and adhering to the latest version of the JCQ's regulations by responding to the head of centre's declaration which is managed as part of the National Centre Number Register (NCNR) annual update

Understands that this responsibility cannot be delegated to a member of the senior leadership team or the examinations officer, and acknowledges that failure to respond to the NCNR annual update, and/or the head of centre's declaration, will result in:

- o the centre status being suspended
- o the centre not being able to submit examination entries
- o the centre not receiving or being able to access question papers
- ► Ensures the exams officer (EO) attends appropriate training events offered by awarding bodies, MIS providers and other external providers to enable the exam process to be effectively managed and administered
- Ensures a named member of staff acts as the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)
- ► Ensures centre staff are supported and appropriately trained to undertake key tasks within the exams process
- ► Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
- ► Ensures "that a teacher who teaches the subject being examined, or a senior member of teaching staff who has had overall responsibility for the candidates preparation for the examination, is not an invigilator during the timetabled written examination or onscreen test..."
- ► Ensures security within the examination process is managed according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions including
 - the location of the centre's secure storage unit is in an area solely assigned to examinations
 - the relevant awarding body is immediately informed if the security of question papers or confidential supporting instructions is put at risk
 - that arrangements are in place to check that the correct question paper packets are opened by authorised members of centre staff
- ► Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place (that allows the HoC to act immediately in the event of an emergency or staff absence)

Exam contingency plan

See policy file in the Exam/Data Office.

"It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that his/her centre... has in place a written examination contingency plan which covers all aspects of examination administration. This will allow members of the senior leadership team to act immediately in the event of an emergency or staff absence. The examination contingency plan must be readily available for inspection purposes; (The examination contingency plan should also reinforce procedures in the event of the centre being

unavailable for examinations owing to an unforeseen emergency.)
[CR 5]

Ensures required internal appeals procedures are in place

Internal appeals procedures

See policy file in the Exam/Data Office.

"The centre agrees to... have in place and be readily available for inspection purposes, a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions and to ensure that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates"

[CR 5.8]

"The centre agrees to... have readily available for inspection purposes and draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers, a written internal appeals procedure to manage disputes when a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal..."

[CR 5.14]

► Ensures a disability policy for exams showing the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place

Disability policy (exams)

See policy file in the Exam/Data Office.

"The head of centre/senior leadership team agrees to... recognise its duties towards disabled candidates as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010†. This must include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates. A written disability policy setting out how the centre seeks to comply with the Equality Act 2010† and fully supporting disabled candidates must be available for inspection purposes. †or any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect

[GR 5.4]

 Ensures a complaints and appeals procedure covering general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification is in place

Complaints and appeals procedure

See policy file in the Exam/Data Office.

"The centre agrees to... draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers their written complaints and appeals procedure which will cover general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification."

[CR 5.7]

Ensures the centre has a child protection/safeguarding policy in place, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements

Child protection/safeguarding policy

See

"It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that his/her centre... has in place a written child protection/safeguarding policy, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which

GR

Ensures the centre has a data protection policy in place

Data protection policy

Please see Separate Data Protection Document

Ensures the centre has documented processes in place relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

Access arrangements policy

See policy in file in the Exam/Data Office

"...with its obligations in respect of identifying the need for, requesting and implementing access arrangements."

[GR 5.5]

"The head of centre/senior leadership team agree to... have a written process in place to not only check the qualification(s) of their specialist assessor(s) but that the assessment process is administered correctly;"

[CR 5.4]

- Ensures staff are only entered for qualifications through the centre as a last resort where the member of centre staff is unable to find another centre.
- Ensure the relevant awarding bodies are informed of any declaration/conflict of interest where a candidate is being taught, prepared, entered or sitting exams where a relevant member of centre staff has a personal connection to the candidate
- 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 the appropriate steps are taken where a candidate being entered for exams is related to a member of centre staff
- ▶ Ensures members of centre staff do **not** forward e-mails and letters from awarding body or JCQ personnel without prior consent to third parties or upload such correspondence onto social media sites such as Facebook
- Ensures members of centre staff do not advise parents/candidates to contact awarding bodies/JCQ directly

"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."

Conflicts of interest

• Ensures the relevant awarding bodies are informed of any Conflict of Interest where o 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)

- o 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
- o 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
- o 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)
- o 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

 [GR 1]

Centre inspections

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

- Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ publications including: <u>General regulations for approved centres</u> <u>Instructions for conducting examinations</u> <u>Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments</u> <u>Post-results services</u> (PRS)
- ▶ Is familiar with the contents of annually updated information from awarding bodies on administrative procedures, key tasks, key dates and deadlines
- Ensures key tasks are undertaken and key dates and deadlines met
- Recruits, trains and deploys a team of internal/external invigilators; appoints lead invigilators, as required and keeps a record of the training provided to invigilators for the required period
- Works with the SENCo to ensure invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates and those acting as a facilitator supporting access arrangement candidates fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room

- Supports the head of centre in ensuring that awarding bodies are informed of any Conflict of Interest declared by members of centre staff and in maintaining records that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected before the published deadline for entries
- ▶ Briefs other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials on the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials

Senior leaders (SLT)

Are familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to annually updated ICO publications including:

General regulations for approved centres

Instructions for conducting examinations

Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments

Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments

<u>Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments</u> (and the instructions for conducting controlled assessment and coursework)

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

Directors of Learning

- ► 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 teacherspecific 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
- 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 confidentially 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.

Planning: roles and responsibilities

Information sharing

Head of centre

Directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including <u>GR</u>, <u>ICE</u>, <u>AA</u>, <u>SMEA</u> and <u>NEA</u> (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

Information gathering

- 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 internal exams to the same rules and procedures as external exams (wherever possible)

Directors of Learning

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

Access arrangements

Head of centre

- Ensures there is appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements in the centre for all examinations and assessments
- ► Ensures a written process is in place to not only check the qualification(s) of their assessor(s) but that the assessment process is administered correctly
- ► Ensures the SENCo 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 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 centredelegated
- ▶ Gathers signed data protection notices from candidates where required
- ▶ 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
- ► 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

Internal assessment and endorsements

Head of centre

- Ensures an internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions is in place for a candidate (or parent/carer) to appeal against and request a review of the centre's marking (see Roles and responsibilities overview)
- 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 a **non-examination assessment policy** is in place for new GCSE qualifications which include components of non-examination assessment

Non-examination assessment policy

See Policy file in Exam/Data Office

"The centre agrees to... have in place and be available for inspection purposes, a written policy with regard to the management of GCE and GCSE non-examination assessments; (For CCEA GCSE centres this would be a written controlled assessments policy.)"

[GR 5.8]

► 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

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

Directors of Learning

- ► Ensures teaching staff delivering legacy GCSE qualifications (which contain elements of controlled assessment) follow JCQ <u>Instructions for conducting controlled</u> <u>assessments</u> and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensures teaching staff delivering new GCE & GCSE specifications (which include components of non-examination assessment) follow JCQ <u>Instructions for conducting</u> <u>non-examination assessments</u> and the specification provided by the awarding body
- ► For other qualifications, ensures teaching staff follow appropriate instructions issued by the awarding body
- Ensures 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
- 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

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 to ensure that 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 an annual training event for new invigilators and an update event for invigilators on the conduct of exams
- 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)
- Ensures invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues
- Collects evaluation of training to inform future events

Entries: roles and responsibilities

Estimated entries

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

Estimated entries collection and submission procedure

Directors of Learning

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

Final entries

Exams officer

- Requests final entry information from DOL's in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met
- Informs DOL's of subsequent deadlines for making changes to final entry information without charge
- Confirms with DOL's 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

Directors of Learning

- 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

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

Directors of Learning

- Minimises the risk of late entries by
 - 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

Pre-exams: roles and responsibilities

Access arrangements

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

Briefing candidates

- Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates informs candidates of any contingency day awarding bodies may identify in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams
- Prior to exams issues relevant JCQ information for candidates documents
- ▶ Where relevant, issues relevant awarding body information to candidates
- Issues centre exam information to candidates including information on:
 - exam 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
 - wrist watches 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

Access to scripts, enquiries about results (EARs) and appeals procedures

Ask students to complete an Access to Scripts or Review of Resullts form before either of these are processed. These forms are also countersigned by the relevant department as an indication that the cost incurred for these requests is paid for by the School, and that the department support this ROR. There is also the opportunity for a candidate to request an Access to script or a review of results without the support of the department and if this is the case the candidate is required to make payment at the time of the request. If any appeals to awarding bodies are made, these are completed in line with individual exam boards' guidelines and candidates' authorisation is sought as and when needed.

All requests must be made within the timeframe set by the JCQ.

"The centre agrees to... have in place written procedures for how it will deal with candidates' access to scripts, enquiries about results and appeals to the awarding bodies and to ensure that details of these procedures are made widely available and accessible to all candidates.

Candidates must be made aware of the arrangements for post-results services before they sit any examinations and the accessibility of senior members of centre staff immediately after the publication of results..."

[<u>GR</u> 5.14]

"The centre agrees to... treat all candidates equally, including private candidates, throughout the examination process. This would also extend to post-results services and appeals." [GR 5.6]

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

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

Directors of Learning

- 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

Invigilation

Exams officer

- Provides an invigilation handbook and/or trains/updates invigilator annually
- 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 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

ICO inspection visit

Exams officer

Will accompany the Inspector throughout the visit

SENCo or relevant Senior Leader (in the absence of 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)

"A senior member of staff or a member of the exams office must be available to accompany the Inspector throughout the course of his or her centre visit, including inspection of the centre's secure storage facility."

[ICE Introduction]

Seating and identifying candidates in exam rooms

Exams officer

 Ensures a procedure is in place to verify candidate identity including private candidates

Verifying candidate identity procedure

A Senior member of staff (who has been authorised by the Head of Centre) will be present inside the Examination Hall at the start of the examinations, to assist with identification of candidates.

"The centre agrees to... have in place written procedures to verify the identity of all candidates at the time of the examination or assessment..."

[CR 5.10]

...A private, external or transferred candidate who is not known to the school or college must show photographic documentary evidence to prove that he/she is the same person who entered/registered for the examination/assessment, e.g. passport or photographic driving licence...

...In cases where it is impossible to identify a candidate due to the wearing of religious clothing, such as a veil, the candidate should be approached by a member of staff of the same gender and taken to a private room where they should be politely asked to remove the religious clothing for identification purposes. Centres must inform candidates in advance of this procedure and well before their first examination.

Once identification has been established, the candidate should replace, for example, their veil and proceed as normal to sit the examination."

- Ensures invigilators are aware of the procedure
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms according to JCQ and awarding body requirements

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

- ► Has a process in place to record confidential materials delivered to the centre and issued to authorised staff
- Ensures only persons authorised by the head of centre and the exams officer are allowed access to the centre's secure storage facility as one of the two to six key holders
- ► Has in place a recording system to track confidential materials taken from or returned to secure storage throughout the time the material is confidential
- Receives, checks and securely stores question papers and other exam materials according to JCQ and awarding body requirements

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

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

Alternative site arrangements

- 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

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

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

Access arrangements

- 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
 - applies for approval through AAO where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

Candidate absence

Candidate absence policy

Candidates absent from examinations would receive a telephone call home from a member of the pastoral team to find out the circumstances as soon as possible. She will liaise with Senior Directors for the collection of any absent students.

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

Candidate late arrival

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

Candidate late arrival policy

Members of SLT and Pastoral team are available in order for students to be contacted. Some students might need to be collected from home addresses and if this is the case, once the phone call is made, we ask that students do not have access to internet, tv, mobile phone, social media etc. Any candidate arriving late/very late into school should be directed to the Exams Officer/SLT and an agreeable decision will be made as to the next action for the candidate eq. If a candidate arrives into school after the start time of the exam the Exams Office/SLT will try and accommodate them in their original exam venue, if this is not possible another suitable venue is found and the usual JCQ rules and regulations policies. If a candidate is very late into an exam, we require confirmation from parents/carers that there has been no access to social media, tv, mobile phone etc and the very late form is then also completed and submitted by the Exams Officer to the relevant exam board. For a candidate who is persistently late, SLT may have a meeting with this candidate and/or parents/carers and try and come to a solution as to how the candidate might be on time for all future exams eq. Phoning in the morning before the exams or arranging for someone to collect the candidate...

[&]quot;Advice: it is good practice for a centre to have a policy for late and absent candidates. Invigilators must be made aware of this policy...

Centres should have their own internal procedures for dealing with candidates who persistently arrive late for examinations.

The exams officer may need to liaise with a senior member of staff who has pastoral responsibilities."

[<u>ICE</u> 14]

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

Dispatch of exam scripts

Exams officer

- 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 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
- 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 clash candidates have completed the exam

Exam rooms

Head of centre

- Ensures that internal tests, mock exams, revision or coaching sessions for candidates will not be held in the designated exam room(s)
- Ensures only authorised centre staff are present in exam rooms

- ► Ensures information relating to food and drink that may be allowed in exam rooms is clearly communicated to candidates
- Ensures the centre's policy on candidates leaving the exam room temporarily is clearly communicated to candidates

Food and drink in exam rooms

Water is allowed in the examination hall as long as it is in a see through bottle free from labels. No food is allowed in the exam hall.

Leaving the Examination Room

Candidate who are allowed to leave the examination room are always accompanied by a member of centre staff. This would not be the candidate's subject teacher or the subject expert for the examination in question. These candidates may be allowed extra time at the discretion of the centre to compensate their temporary absence. A list is kept of when any students leaves an exam venue – the start and end time of the absence is recorded. After the exam this record is kept with attendance register and seating plan

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
- ► Ensures invigilators understand how to deal with candidates who may need to leave the exam room temporarily
- ► 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
- 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 Directors

- 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

Emergency evacuation policy

See policy file in Exam/Data Office

Lockdown

In the event of a lockdown during internal and external examinations, the students' safety remains paramount and will be considered above all examination regulations. All efforts will be made to ensure that the examination remains under strict control, however, this cannot be guaranteed. The exam hall will be secured following the usual lockdown protocol.

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 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

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

If the candidate was removed, wherever possible they would be placed in another venue, making sure that the rules and regulations of the exam were still in place.

"The head of centre has the authority to remove a candidate from the examination room, but should only do so if the candidate would disrupt others by remaining in the room."

[ICE 17]

Senior Directos

- ► 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)

Malpractice

See Irregularities above.

Special consideration

Candidates requiring special consideration for any of their external exams is collated throughout the year. The Exams Officer sends out emails to relevant members of staff eg. Pastoral Team, DOLs, Safeguarding Lead in timely manners throughout the year reminding them that special consideration could be given to candidates depending on their home/social circumstances. Any requests that are made are held on a secure file and processed as and when they are needed. Ad hoc 'on the day' special consideration requests are also processed, once evidence has been received.

Exams officer

- Processes appropriate requests 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
 Special consideration policy

Candidates

 Provide appropriate evidence to support special consideration requests, where required

Unauthorised materials

Arrangements for unauthorised materials taken into the exam room

Candidates are informed at the start of each exam that they must not have any unauthorised materials on them during the exam. They are asked to place personal belongings way from their exam desk (the actual location of this will depend on the exam venue). Candidates inform invigilators if they do have any unauthorised items and these are handed over to the invigilators until the end of the exam.

- "...any unauthorised items that have been taken into the examination room must be placed out of reach of the candidates (and not under their desks) before the examination starts. This would normally be at the front of the examination room or a similar arrangement that enables the invigilator to control access to the items.
- ...The invigilator, prior to the examination starting, must ensure that candidates have removed their wrist watches, placing them on their desks.

Invigilators

Are informed of the arrangements through training

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

Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities

Internal assessment

Directors of Learning

- 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 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

Results day programme

Examination results will be issued on Results Day. A letter will be sent home to students detailing collection times. Staff will be available to assist students on results day. Results can be issued to a parent/carer on results day if written consent is provided from the student, detailing who will be collecting the results and photographic ID is provided on the day. Results can also be posted home if written request is received prior to results day and a stamped address envelope is also provided.

Site staff

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

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

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
- 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 candidates (including private candidates) and staff on the services provided by awarding bodies and the fees charged (see also above Briefing candidates and Access to scripts, enquiries about 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
- Examinations Officer will gain relevant candidate informed consent
- Senior Leaders will 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 Data Manager

- Provides analysis of results to appropriate centre staff
- Provides results information to external organisations where required
- Undertakes the secondary school performance tables June and September checking exercise

Certificates

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

Issue of certificates procedure

Candidates are informed when the Certificates can be collected.

Certificates may be collected on behalf of candidates if written authorisation is provided and ID evidence is provided on collection of certificates.

Retention of certificates policy

The Centre retains certificates for five years. Any requests for replacement certificates will be payable by the candidate not the centre.

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

Exams archiving policy

We hold exam records as instructed by the JCQ rules and regulations. Once the retention period has passed for records they are destroyed in a secure manner.

Special Consideration Policy

What is special consideration?

"Special consideration is a post-examination adjustment to a candidate's mark or grade to reflect temporary illness, temporary injury or some other event outside of the candidate's control at the time of the assessment, which has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a candidate's ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment.

Special consideration can only seek to go some way to assist a candidate affected by a potentially wide range of difficulties, emotional or physical, which may influence performance in examinations. It cannot remove the difficulty faced by the candidate. There will be situations where candidates should not be entered for an examination. Only minor adjustments can be made to the mark awarded because to do more than this would jeopardize the standard of the examination."

[JCQ A guide to the special consideration process section 1]

This document is further referred to in this policy as SC

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to identify roles and responsibilities in the special consideration process and confirms that [insert centre name] agrees to "submit any applications for special consideration where candidates meet the published criteria."

[JCQ General regulations for approved centres section 5.10]

Eligibility for special consideration

Roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- ▶ Is familiar with the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication <u>SC</u>
- ► Ensures that, where relevant and in eligible situations, applications for special consideration will be submitted to awarding bodies by the exams officer

Exams officer

- ▶ Understands the criteria as detailed in <u>SC</u> to determine where candidates will/will not be eligible for special consideration
- Ensures that, where relevant and in eligible situations, applications for special consideration will be submitted to awarding bodies

Teaching staff and/or SENCo

Provide any appropriate evidence or information that may be required to determine a candidate's eligibility for special consideration.

Candidates (or parents/carers)

Provide any medical or other evidence that may be required to determine eligibility for special consideration

Applying for special consideration

Where eligible, special consideration will be applied for in a specific exam series where candidates "...have been fully prepared and have covered the whole course but performance in the examination, or in the production of controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment, is materially affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control."

- 1. Where a candidate may arrive for an exam and is clearly unwell, extremely distressed and/or may have sustained an injury that requires emergency access arrangements to be put in place:
- ▶ the candidate will be kept comfortable and under supervision from the required time while appropriate arrangements are put in place for him/her to take the exam in the best possible conditions
- a judgement will be made on how the candidate's situation or disposition affected performance in the exam
- where appropriate and where eligible, special consideration will be applied for
- 2. Where candidates may be affected by a major disturbance in the exam room (emergency evacuation etc.), special consideration will be applied for on behalf of all candidates.
- 3. Where a candidate takes multiple exams (three or more exams) timetabled for the same day and the total duration for those papers is more than 5 hours 30 minutes for GCSE exams including any approved extra time but not any time taken for supervised rest breaks, special consideration for an allowance on last paper taken will be applied for.
- 4. Where a candidate may be affected by a minor disturbance in the exam room caused by another candidate (momentary bad behaviour, mobile phone ringing etc.), special consideration cannot be applied for.

If a candidate is absent for acceptable reasons, and the centre can verify this, special consideration will be applied for if the exam missed is in the terminal series and the minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence can be met. If there is an opportunity to re-enter the candidate in the next available exam series, the centre will make the entry and special consideration will not be applied for.

Where other issues or problems affect a candidate or a group of candidates, special consideration will be explored and applied for where eligible. This might include, for example:

- requesting an honorary certificate
- a short extension to controlled assessment/coursework/non-examination assessment deadlines

- submitting a reduced quantity of controlled assessment/coursework/nonexamination assessment (shortfall in work)
- lost or damaged work
- candidates taking an incorrect or defective question paper
- candidates undertaking the wrong controlled assessment assignment

Where a candidate may be eligible for special consideration (a post assessment adjustment) in a vocational qualification, the centre will follow the awarding body guidance to determine if, when and how an adjustment can be applied for.

Processing applications for special consideration

Roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

► Ensures where a candidate may be a relative of the exams officer, the application will be authorised by an alternative member of centre staff

Exams officer

- Ensures applications will be processed as required by the awarding bodies
- Keeps evidence to support applications on file until after the publication of results
- Meets the required deadline(s) for submitting applications

Teaching staff and/or SENCo

 Provide any appropriate evidence or information that may be required to support a candidate's application for special consideration

Candidates (or parents/carers)

Will be asked to provide any required medical or other evidence that may be required to support an application for special consideration

Submitting applications for special consideration

Where a candidate or group of candidates is/are eligible for special consideration, applications will be submitted to the relevant awarding body following the published processes.

Evidence to support applications will be kept on file until after the publication of results.

Timetabled written exams

- For GCSE qualifications, applications for individual candidates will be submitted online by logging into the relevant awarding body secure extranet site and following the links to special consideration
- ► The processes for submitting a single application to cover all exams where a candidate is present but disadvantaged and a separate application for each day where a candidate is absent from an examination for an acceptable reason will be followed

- ► For other qualifications, applications are submitted online where the awarding body's secure system accepts these.
- ► The paper <u>form 10 JCQ/SC Application for special consideration</u> will <u>only</u> be completed and submitted to the awarding body where the online system does not accept applications for a particular qualification
- ▶ For groups of candidates, applications will be made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts group applications or form 10 will be completed
- ► The paper form 14 JCQ/ME Self certification for candidates who have missed an examination will only be completed by a candidate where circumstances warrant this and will not be used where the centre knows the candidate was ill

Internally assessed work

- Where appropriate, applications will be made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts them or form 10 will be completed and submitted to the awarding body
- Where a short extension to a deadline is being requested an application will be submitted online or by direct email, dependent on the awarding body
- ▶ Where an application relates to a shortfall in work, this will be submitted online or by completing form 10, dependent on the awarding body
- Where an application relates to lost or damaged work, this will be submitted online or by completing <u>form 15</u> JCQ/LCW Notification of lost centre assessed work, dependent on the awarding body

Post assessment adjustments - vocational qualifications

▶ Where relevant and eligible, form <u>VO/SC</u> Application for special consideration Vocational qualifications will be completed and submitted to the awarding body

Private candidates

▶ Any private candidate entered by the centre must liaise with the exams officer (not the awarding body) regarding any application for special consideration