



Exams Policy

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Responsibility of: Exams Manager

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Purpose of the policy

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 policy will ensure that:

- all aspects of the centre's 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 **examination/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.

Overtyping here how this policy will be communicated or brought to the attention of all those identified with roles and responsibilities within the policy. (You may also wish to include a section detailing how relevant information contained in this policy is made accessible/brought to the attention of candidates) (or delete this table if not deemed appropriate to include here)

Roles and responsibilities overview

(GR 2)

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 published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements.

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 must not normally appoint themselves as the examinations officer. A head of centre and an examinations officer are two distinct and separate roles.

The head of centre and/or examinations officer may operate across more than one centre. In such cases the head of centre must ensure there is suitable senior leadership team support in place, so they can meet their obligations across all centres for which they are responsible. The head of centre must ensure that these arrangements are covered by their examination contingency plan.

Head of centre responsibilities

(GR 1)

Heads of centre must ensure that senior leadership teams and exam office personnel familiarise themselves with the entire contents of the current General Regulations for Approved Centres (GR) booklet. In particular, heads of centre must familiarise themselves with paragraphs 5.1, 5.3 and 5.4.

Heads of centre must ensure that relevant members of staff respond promptly to actions raised by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service. 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.

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.

(ICE Introduction) **It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that all staff comply with the instructions in the Instructions for conducting examinations document.** Failure to do so may constitute malpractice as defined in the JCQ document Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures, 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.

(GR 5.1)

The head of centre must ensure:

- compliance with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to deliver the qualification(s)
- appropriate controls are in place which ensure accurate data is submitted to the awarding bodies by the required deadlines, e.g. entries, internally assessed marks

all reasonable steps are taken to respond promptly to requests for information or documentation made by an awarding body or regulatory authority**Head of Centre**

Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ documents including:

General regulations for approved centres (GR)

Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE)

Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA)

Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures (SMPP)

Instructions for conducting coursework (ICC)

Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (NEA) (and the instructions for conducting coursework)

A guide to the special consideration process (SC)

- ▶ Ensures the centre has appropriate accommodation to support the size of the cohorts being taught including appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements and/or practical assessments
- ▶ Where/if using a third party to deliver any part of a qualification (including its assessments) at the centre:
 - maintains oversight of, and responsibility for, the delivery of the qualification in accordance with JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements
 - has in place a written agreement with the third party (unless exclusions apply) to 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
 - Ensures that a copy of the written agreement is available for inspection if requested by the awarding body
- ▶ Ensures that relevant members of staff respond promptly to actions raised by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, understanding that failure to do so could result in penalties (see **National Centre Number Register and other information** section)
- ▶ 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 (including third party applications)
- ▶ Ensures members of centre staff do not advise parents/candidates to contact awarding bodies/JCQ directly nor provide them with the names, addresses and contact details (including

email addresses) of examiners, moderators, external verifiers and any other awarding body examining/assessment personnel/JCQ personnel.

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 evidence of candidate performance in line with the published guidance.

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 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:

- providing training for authorised staff on the importance of creating strong unique passwords and keeping all account details secret
- providing training for staff on awareness of all types of social engineering/ phishing attempts
- enabling additional security settings wherever possible
- 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*
Authorised staff will have access, where necessary, to a device which complies with awarding bodies' multi-factor authentication (MFA) requirements.

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

It is the responsibility of the **head of centre** to ensure that **the** centre:

Recruitment, selection, training and support

(GR 5.3)

- ▶ Retains a workforce of an appropriate size and competence, including sufficient managerial and other resources, to undertake the delivery of the qualification as required by an awarding body. This includes taking reasonable steps to ensure occupational competence where this is required for the assessment of specific qualifications
- ▶ Provides fully qualified teachers to mark non-examination assessments, and/or fully qualified assessors for the verification of centre-assessed components
- ▶ Ensures that teaching staff do not use artificial intelligence (AI) as the sole means of marking candidates' work
- ▶ Enables the relevant senior leader(s), the examinations officer (EO) and the **SENCo (or equivalent role)** to receive appropriate training and support in order to facilitate the effective delivery of examinations and assessments within the centre, and ensure compliance with the published JCQ **and awarding body** regulations
- ▶ 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

(GR 5.3)

- ▶ Has in place a member of the senior leadership team **who has a good working knowledge of the examination system, will** provide effective **line management** support and supervision of the examinations officer to ensure that the integrity and security of examinations and assessments is maintained throughout an examination series
- ▶ Has in place a written escalation process should the head of centre, or a member of the senior leadership team with oversight of examination **and assessment** administration, be absent

Escalation Process

The member of the SLT who provides effective support and supervision of the Exams Manager to ensure that the integrity and security of examinations is maintained throughout an examination series is Helen McGuinness.

In the absence of Helen McGuinness, the Head of Centre, Mr. Jonathan Croucher will assume this responsibility.

In the absence of Mrs Jonathan Croucher, Mr Alex Edgar will assume the Head of Centre exam responsibilities, including deputising for Helen McGuinness as above.

- ▶ Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
- ▶ Can confirm the external governance arrangements to an awarding body, 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

Delivery of qualifications

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

Public liability

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

Conflicts of interest

(GR 5.3) See Policies below)

Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments

(GR 5.3)

- Has in place arrangements to co-ordinate and standardise all marking of centre-assessed components and to ensure that candidates' centre-assessed work is produced, authenticated and marked, or assessed and quality assured in accordance with the awarding bodies' instructions (This applies to both internal and private candidates)
- Submits in accordance with awarding bodies' instructions, information they may reasonably require in relation to their examinations and assessments, returning all subject-specific forms by the required date

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

Policies and Procedures available for inspection

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

Malpractice Policy (Exams)

Can be found in Exam Policies folder in the Exams Office.

- 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.

Exam Contingency Plan

Can be found in Exam Policies folder in the Exams Office.

- ▶ Ensures required internal appeals procedures are in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and (where relevant) their parents/carers.

Internal Appeals Policy

Can be found in Exam Policies folder in the Exams Office and on RHSC websites

- ▶ 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

Equalities Policy (Exams)

Can be found in Exam Policies folder in the Exams Office.

- ▶ Ensures a complaints policy 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

Complaints Policy (Exams)

Can be found in Exam Policies folder in the Exams Office and on RHSC websites

- ▶ 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 (exams)

Can be found in Exam Policies folder in the Exams Office and on RHSC website

- ▶ Ensures the centre has a data protection policy in place that complies with General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 regulations

Data Protection Policy (Exams)

General policy can be found on Synergy Trust's website. Data Protection Policy (exams) can be found in the Exams Policies Folder in the Exams Office

- ▶ Ensures the centre has a whistleblowing policy in place

Whistleblowing Policy (Exams)

Can be found in Exam Policies folder in the Exams Office.

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

Conflicts of interest

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

Conflict of Interest Policy (Exams)

Can be found in Exam Policies folder in the Exams Office.

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

(GR 5.4)

The head of centre/senior leadership team will:

- appoint a SENCo, or an equivalent member of staff, who will coordinate the access arrangements process within the centre and determine appropriate arrangements for candidates with learning

difficulties and disabilities, candidates for whom English is an additional language, as well as those with a temporary illness or temporary injury

- ensure that learners have the correct information and advice on their selected qualification(s) in an accessible format and that the qualification(s) meet their needs (The recruitment process must include the centre assessing each potential learner and making justifiable and professional judgements about the learner's potential to complete the examinations/assessments successfully and achieve the qualification(s). The centre's assessment must identify, where appropriate, the support that will be made available to the learner to facilitate access to examinations/assessments)
- recognise its duties towards disabled candidates, including private candidates, ensuring compliance with all aspects of the Equality Act 2010†, particularly Section 20 (7) (This must include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, through the access arrangements process submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates. Where the centre is under a duty to make a reasonable adjustment, the centre must not charge a disabled candidate any additional fee in relation to the adjustment or aid)
† for any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect
- ensure that the SENCo undertakes the necessary and appropriate steps to gather a picture of need and demonstrate normal way of working for a private candidate such as a distance learner or a home educated student (The centre, where required, must lead on the assessment process. The candidate must be assessed by the centre's appointed assessor. In some instances, depending on their needs, the candidate may have to be assessed away from the centre, for example at home. The centre must comply with the obligation to identify the need for, request and implement access arrangements)
- ensure that where a candidate with a learning difficulty requires an assessment of their needs, they are assessed by an appropriately qualified assessor as appointed by the head of centre (Evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) must be obtained before they assess candidates and held on file for inspection)
- have a written process in place to not only check the qualification(s) of their assessor(s) but that the correct procedures are followed as in Chapter 7 of the JCQ document *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*

Access arrangements policy

Can be found in the Exams Policies folder in the Exams Office and SENCo office

- assist the awarding bodies in the discharge of their duty to make reasonable adjustments by requesting access arrangements, where required, and fully support the SENCo in effectively implementing those arrangements once approved

Malpractice

(GR 5.11)

The centre will:

- take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after assessments have taken place
- inform the awarding 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 current JCQ

document *Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures* and provides such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require

- (GR 6.2) 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 document *Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures*

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.

National Centre Number Register and other information requirements

- 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)
- Responds to the National Centre Number Register annual update by the end of October every year
 - 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) of any changes to relevant contact details no later than 6 weeks prior to moving to a new address or re-locating of the secure storage facility (This must be on centre headed stationery which can be sent as an email attachment)
 - informs the National Centre Number Register Team immediately of any other changes in circumstances that could affect the centre’s status

- responds, by completing the Head of Centre Declaration, to the National Centre Number Register request for confirmation that they are aware of and adhering to the latest versions of the JCQ regulations, and does so no later than the end of October every year
- 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, and/or the head of centre's declaration, will result in:
 - the centre status being suspended
 - the centre not being able to submit examination entries
 - the centre not receiving or being able to access question papers

and ultimately, awarding bodies could withdraw their approval of the centre

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.
- Allows all venues used for examinations and assessments, paperwork and secure storage facilities to be open to inspection
- Understands the JCQ Centre Inspector will identify themselves with a formal identity document and must be accompanied throughout their tour of the premises, including inspection of the centre's secure storage facility

Exams officer (EO)

- ▶ Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ documents including:
 - General regulations for approved centres*
 - Instructions for conducting examinations*
 - Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures*
 - Post-results services (PRS)*
 - A guide to the special consideration process*
- Completes/submits the National Centre Number Register annual update (administered on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies by OCR <https://ocr.org.uk/administration/ncn-annual-update/>) by the end of October every year to confirm the centre's contact details or informs of any changes ((and follows the process (in GR 5.3) if any changes occur after the annual update has taken place)
- Confirms the details or informs the awarding bodies of any changes to the centre's contact details through the National Centre Number Register
- Informs the National Centre Number Register Team immediately (e-mail address – ncn@ocr.org.uk) if any changes occur after the National Centre Number Register annual update has taken place
- (Where it may be applicable) Informs the National Centre Number Register Team no later than 6 weeks prior to moving to a new address or a re-location of the secure storage facility
- Informs the National Centre Number Register Team **immediately** (e-mail address – ncn@ocr.org.uk) of any other changes in circumstances that could affect the centre's status
- ▶ Is familiar with the contents of annually updated information from awarding bodies on administrative procedures, key tasks, key dates and deadlines
- ▶ Ensures key tasks are undertaken and key dates and deadlines met
- ▶ Recruits, trains and deploys a team of internal/external invigilators; appoints lead invigilators, as required and keeps a record of the content of training provided to invigilators for the required period
- ▶ Works with the **SENCo (or equivalent role)** to ensure invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates and those acting as a facilitator supporting access arrangement candidates fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room

- ▶ Supports the head of centre in ensuring that awarding bodies are informed (where required) of any conflict of interest declared by members of centre staff and in maintaining **internal** records that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected the published deadline for entries for each examination series.
- ▶ Briefs other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential **and security of confidential examination/assessment materials**

Senior leaders (SLT)

- ▶ Are familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ **documents** including:
 - General regulations for approved centres*
 - Instructions for conducting examinations*
 - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*
 - Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures*
 - Instructions for conducting coursework***
 - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments* (and the instructions for conducting coursework)
 - A guide to the special consideration 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 **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)

- ▶ Understand the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ **documents** including:
 - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*
- ▶ Leads on the access arrangements and reasonable adjustments process (referred to in this policy as ‘access arrangements’)
- ▶ If not the qualified access arrangements assessor, works with the person appointed, on all matters relating to assessing candidates and ensures the correct procedures are followed
- ▶ Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor’s qualification
- ▶ **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 and a signed candidate data personal consent form (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**

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 subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- ▶ Attend relevant awarding body training and update events

Invigilators

- ▶ Attend/undertake training (on the current regulation), 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 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.

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 which need to be undertaken before, during and after an exam series 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 3.1)

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.

Information sharing

Head of centre

- ▶ Directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ **documents** including GR, ICE, AARA, SMPP, ICC, NEA and SC

Exams officer

- ▶ Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ **documents** and awarding body documentation relating to the **examination/assessment** process that has been updated
- ▶ Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ information that must be provided to candidates
- ▶ As the centre administrator, approves relevant access rights for centre staff to access awarding body secure extranet sites

Information gathering

Exams officer

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

Head of department

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

Access arrangements

Head of centre

- ▶ Ensures 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 appropriately qualified assessor as appointed by the head of centre) to identify access arrangements/reasonable adjustments requirements
- ▶ Gathers **evidence** to support the need for access arrangements for a candidate
- ▶ Liaises with teaching staff to gather evidence of **normal way of working** for a candidate
- ▶ Determines candidate eligibility for arrangements or adjustments that are centre-delegated
- ▶ Gathers signed **Personal data consent forms** from candidates where required and ensures **Data protection confirmation(s)** are completed
- ▶ Applies for approval **using** *Access arrangements online* (AAO), via the Centre Admin Portal (CAP) where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Keeps a file for each candidate for JCQ inspection purposes containing all the required documentation
- ▶ Employs good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010
- ▶ Liaises with the EO regarding exam time arrangements for access arrangement candidates

Senior leaders, Teaching staff

- ▶ Support **the SENCo (or equivalent role)** in determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements/reasonable adjustments
- ▶ **(Senior leader)** Provides an annually reviewed and updated word processor policy, specific to the centre, which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations

Word Processor Policy (Exams)

Can be found in the Exams Policies folder in the Exams Office and SENCo office

- ▶ Ensures criteria for candidates granted alternative rooming arrangements is clear, meets JCQ regulations and best meets the needs of individual candidates and remaining candidates in main exam rooms

Alternative Rooming Arrangements Policy (Exams)

Can be found in the Access Arrangements Policy in the folder in the Exams Office and SENCo office

Internal assessment and endorsements

Head of centre

Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments

- ▶ 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)

Non-examination Assessment Policy

Can be found in Exam Policies folder in the Exams Office
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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
- ▶ Ensure appropriate internal moderation, standardisation and verification processes are in place
- ▶ Ensures teaching staff delivering AQA Applied General qualifications, OCR Cambridge Nationals and Entry Level Certificates or Project qualifications follow JCQ *Instructions for conducting coursework* and the specification provided by the awarding body
- ▶ Ensures 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
- ▶ 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 (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, 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 supervision of candidates is maintained at all times.
- ▶ 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 existing invigilators so they are aware of any changes in a new academic year, before they are allocated to invigilate 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 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

Entries: roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- ▶ Ensures the centre's obligations as detailed in the regulations are met. (With reference to GR 5.4 Entries)

Estimated entries

Exams officer

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

Head of department

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

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 **senior leaders** in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met
- ▶ Informs **senior leaders** of subsequent deadlines for making changes to final entry information without charge
- ▶ **Submits registrations, examination entries and certification claims by the deadline(s) and complies with the requirements of the specification including any terminal rules which need to be met at the point of certification**
- ▶ Confirms with **senior leaders** final entry information that has been submitted to awarding bodies
- ▶ Ensures as far as possible that entry processes minimise the risk of entries or registrations being missed reducing the potential for late or other penalty fees being charged by awarding bodies
- ▶ Observes each awarding body's terms and conditions for the entry and withdrawal of candidates for their examinations and assessments, and observes any regulatory requirements for the qualification.

Final entries collection and submission procedure

HoDs are issued with class lists per qualification/unit and are given a deadline to return them to EO. EO makes entries and prints off an entry list which is signed by each HoD.

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

Entry fees

RHSC will pay for exam entries from the exams budget. Candidates re-sitting, all private candidates and students that do not attend exams without a valid reason will be charged entry fees. Fee paying students will be reported to Finance who will raise an invoice.

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

Re-sit entries/private candidates

Re-sits and private candidates will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances. This will be managed on a case-by-case basis by the EO and head of centre. If agreed, candidates will complete an external exam entry form and will be charged the cost of entry and an administration charge of £25 per entry. This must be paid before entries are made. If access arrangements are required, there will be an additional charge for exams access assessment.

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

Head of centre

- ▶ Ensures the centre's obligations as detailed in the regulations are met. (With reference to GR 5.8 **Candidate information**)

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

SENCo

- ▶ Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access to exams/assessment for candidates where they are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act (unless a temporary emergency arrangement is required at the time of an exam)
- ▶ Ensures a candidate is involved in any decisions about arrangements, adjustments and /or adaptations that may be put in place for him/her
- ▶ Ensures exam information (JCQ information for candidates documents, individual exam timetable, etc.) is adapted where this may be required for a disabled candidate to access it
- ▶ 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

Exams Officer

- Allocates appropriately trained centre staff to facilitate access arrangements for candidates in exams and assessments (ensuring that the facilitator appointed meets JCQ requirements and fully understands the rule of the access arrangement)

Briefing candidates

Exams officer

- ▶ Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates and informs candidates of any designated contingency session 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 (coursework, non-examination assessments, on-screen tests, social media and written examinations) and awarding body privacy notices
- ▶ Where relevant, issues relevant awarding body information to candidates
- ▶ Issues centre exam information to candidates including information on:
 - ▶ exam timetable clashes
 - ▶ arriving late for an exam
 - ▶ absence or illness during exams
 - ▶ what equipment is/is not provided by the centre
 - ▶ food and drink in exam rooms
 - ▶ unauthorised items in exam rooms
 - ▶ when and how results will be issued and the staff that will be available
 - ▶ the post-results services information and how the centre will deal with requests from candidates
 - ▶ when and how certificates will be issued

Access to Scripts, Review of Results and Appeals Procedures

Candidates, including external candidates, are informed about post results services via the Student Exam Information booklet which is issued before the exams start. The relevant forms and written process will be sent out at the end of the exam season and be available in the Exams Office and on RHSC intranet. These detail the process, fees and deadlines. On results days teaching and exams staff will be on hand to assist. Outcomes will be emailed directly to students (and a parent if under 18). Appeals procedures are detailed in the Internal Appeals Procedure available on RHSC website and in the policies folder in the Exams Office.

Dispatch of exam scripts

Exams officer

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

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

Invigilation

Exams officer

- ▶ Provides an annually reviewed/updated invigilator handbook to invigilators, trains new invigilators on the current regulations on appointment and updates **the existing invigilation team** on any regulation changes and any changes to centre-specific **arrangements**
- ▶ Deploys invigilators effectively to exam rooms throughout an exam series (including the provision of a roving invigilator where a candidate and invigilator [acting as a practical assistant, **prompter**, reader or scribe] are accommodated on a 1:1 basis to enter the room at regular intervals in order to observe the conducting of the exam, ensure all relevant rules are being adhered to and to support the practical assistant/reader and/or scribe in maintaining the integrity of the exam)
- ▶ Allocates invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to a timetable clash) according to the required ratios
- ▶ Liaises with the 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

JCQ Centre Inspections

Exams officer

- ▶ Will accompany the Inspector throughout a visit

SENCo or relevant **Senior leader** (in the absence of the SENCo)

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

Seating and identifying candidates in exam rooms

Exams officer

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

Candidate identification procedure

All students' identity is verified at initial registration. All students have an exam card which details name, centre number, exam number and a colour photo. These are placed on desks before the exam according to the seating plan. During the exam an invigilator will verify the identity of each candidate using their exam cards. External/private candidates will be asked to provide photo ID which will be checked when entered for an exam and before each exam starts. Access arrangements will be detailed on seating plans and exam cards.

- ▶ Ensures invigilators are aware of the procedure
- ▶ Provides seating plans for exam rooms according to JCQ and awarding body requirements (and ensures candidates with access arrangements are identified on the seating plan and invigilators are informed of those candidates with access arrangements and made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded.
- ▶

Invigilators

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

Security of exam materials

Exams officer

- ▶ Confirms appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential materials are only handed over to those authorised by the head of centre – Exams Manager and Exams Assistant.
- ▶ Ensures access to the secure room is restricted and staff approved by the head of centre are accompanied by a keyholder at all times.
- ▶ 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 Reception staff within the centre and that appropriate arrangements are in place for confidential materials to be immediately transferred to the secure storage facility by site staff 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 a secure environment **at the centre** to prevent unauthorised personnel accessing live assessment materials and ensuring only authorised members of centre staff have access to electronic question paper **materials**)
- ▶ 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.

Reception staff

- ▶ Follow the process to log confidential materials delivered to/received by the centre to the point materials are issued to site staff for transferral to the secure storage facility and Exams staff.

Teaching staff

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

Timetabling and rooming

Exams officer

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

Overnight supervision arrangements

Before overnight supervision is considered, the EO will meet with the affected student to discuss arrangements for taking all the clash exams in one day. This must be the preferred option, so all that can be done in terms of rooming and timings of exams to enable this for the student must be considered. Unless there is a documented health or emotional reason why the student is unable to take all the exams in one day, they will be expected to do so.

If overnight supervision is used as a last resort, the preference would for this to be under the supervision of a member of staff. If this is not possible, the student and supervisor (parent or other nominated person) must meet with the EO and Head so that they are satisfied that regulations below are followed and that the JCQ overnight declaration and supervision forms are signed and retained

- ▶ Identifies exam rooms and specialist equipment requirements
- ▶ Allocates invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to an exam timetable clash) according to required ratios
- ▶ Liaises with site staff to ensure exam rooms are set up according to JCQ and awarding body requirements
- ▶ Liaises with the 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

Exams officer

- ▶ Ensures question papers will only be taken to an alternative site where the published criteria for an alternative site arrangement have been met
- ▶ Will inform the JCQ Centre Inspection Service to timescale by submitting a JCQ Alternative Site **form online** using CAP (or through the awarding body where a qualification may sit outside the scope of CAP) of any alternative sites that will be used to conduct timetabled examination components of the qualifications listed in the JCQ regulations

Transferred candidate arrangements

Exams officer

- ▶ Liaises with the host or entering centre, as required
- ▶ Processes requests for *Transferred Candidate arrangements* using CAP to the awarding body deadline (or through the awarding body where a qualification may sit outside the scope of CAP)
- ▶ Where relevant (for an internal candidate) informs the candidate of the arrangements that have been made for their transferred candidate arrangements

Internal exams/assessments

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

Exam time: roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- ▶ Ensures the centre's obligations as detailed in the regulations are met. (With reference to GR 5.9 **Conducting examinations and assessments**)

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/temporary access arrangements as they arise at the time of exams
 - ▶ **Liaises with the SENCo** to apply 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 are informed via the Student Exam booklet about what to do if they are going to be late or miss an exam. Missing candidates will be reported to the EO/Attendance Officer by the invigilators before the start of an exam, but they will not be allowed to delay the start of an exam. If a candidate is absent from an exam and has not notified RSHC, they will be phoned immediately by the AO/College admin to see if they are coming. Absences are reported to HoYs, SLT and head of centre each day.

Invigilators

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

Candidates

- ▶ Are charged relevant entry fees for unauthorised absence from exams

Candidate late arrival

Exams officer

- ▶ Ensures that candidates who arrive very late (over 1 hour) for an exam are reported to the awarding body by submitting a *report on candidate admitted very late to examination room* using CAP to timescale.
- ▶ Warns candidates that their script may not be accepted by the awarding body

Invigilators

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

Candidate late arrival policy

Students can enter the exam room and have the full time for the exam if they are up to one hour late but must report to EO first. They will not be allowed access to the exam room if they are not accompanied by the EO. Persistently late candidates will be reported to the SLT. Candidates arriving over one hour late will still be allowed to sit the exam for its full duration but will be informed that the “very late” arrival will be reported to the awarding body and that their paper may not be marked.

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 the secure storage facility.
- ▶ Attaches erratum notices received to relevant sealed exam question paper packets
- ▶ Collates attendance registers and examiner details in date order
- ▶ Regularly checks mail or email inbox for updates from awarding bodies
- ▶ In order to avoid potential breaches of security, ensures care is taken to ensure the correct question paper packets are opened by ensuring a member of centre staff, additional to the person removing the papers from secure storage, e.g. an invigilator, checks the day, date, time, subject, unit/component and tier of entry, if appropriate, immediately before a question paper packet is opened
- ▶ Ensures this second pair of eyes check is recorded
- ▶ Where allowed by the awarding body, only releases exam papers and materials to teaching departments for teaching and learning purposes after the published finishing time of the exam, or until any timetable clash candidates have completed the exam

Exam rooms

Head of centre

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

Food and drink policy (exams)

Food (small sweets) is allowed into the exam room but must be unpackaged and in a clear container. Clear, unlabelled water bottles are allowed, containing water only. Students are informed of this via the Student Exam handbook.

Leaving the exam room policy

Candidates can leave the exam room temporarily if they have medical rest breaks (for example diabetic students that need to check their bloods), or other medical reasons to use the toilet. They will be accompanied by an invigilator and the time left and returned will be noted on the room incident log. For these students the exam will be paused and re-started when they return so that they have the full time for the exam. If a student is distressed and/or disturbing others, it may also be appropriate for an invigilator to take them outside the exam room. In this instance the EO should be notified to make a decision on how to proceed. Time of leaving and returning to the exam room must be noted on the incident log. Apart from the above, students will not be allowed to use the toilet during the first 30 minutes or last 15 minutes of an exam unless it is an emergency. Students using the toilet excessively or in an obvious pattern will be reported to the SLT to follow up. This is communicated to students via the Student Exam handbook

Exams officer

- ▶ Ensures exam rooms are set up and conducted as required in the regulations
- ▶ Provides invigilators with appropriate resources to effectively conduct exams
- Briefs invigilators on exams to be conducted on a session-by-session basis (including the arrangements in place for any transferred candidates and access arrangement candidates)
- ▶ Ensures sole invigilators have an appropriate means of summoning assistance (if this is a mobile phone, instructs the invigilator that the mobile phone is only allowed to be used for this specific purpose and that it must be kept on silent mode)
- ▶ Ensures invigilators understand they must be vigilant and remain aware of incidents or emerging situations, looking out for malpractice or candidates who may be in distress recording any incidents or issues on the exam room incident log
- ▶ Ensures invigilators understand how to deal with candidates who may need to leave the exam room temporarily and how this should be recorded on the exam room incident log.
- ▶ Provides authorised exam materials which candidates are not expected to provide themselves
- ▶ Ensures invigilators and candidates are aware of the emergency evacuation procedure
- ▶ Ensures invigilators are aware of arrangements in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance if an exam room is evacuated

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
- ▶ Ensure a procedure is in place in case of an emergency invacuation (lockdown)

Emergency evacuation policy

Can be found in the Exam Policy folder in the Exams Office

Lockdown Policy (Exams)

Can be found in the Exam Policy folder in the Exams Office

Site staff

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

Invigilators

- ▶ Conduct exams in every exam room according to JCQ Instructions for conducting examinations and/or awarding body requirements and as instructed 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 (as required by an awarding body) any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration before, during or after examinations/assessments (by centre staff, candidates, invigilators) are investigated and reported to the awarding body **immediately**, by completing the appropriate documentation

Managing behaviour policy (exams)

If candidates are being disruptive, they will be warned by the invigilator that they may be removed from the exam room. If disruption continues and they are affecting other students, they will be escorted from the room to the EO office and Head of Centre informed. This will be recorded on the incident log. The EO/Head/SLT member will attempt to resolve the situation by talking to the student and/or re-rooming. If, however the disruption continues the EO will explain that they will contact the awarding body and that the student could be disqualified from the exam.

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 or needing to leave the room temporarily, disruption or disturbance in the exam room, emergency evacuation)

Special consideration

Senior leaders

- Support eligible applications for special consideration by signing appropriate evidence

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

Special Consideration Policy

Can be found in the Exam Policy folder in the Exams Office

Candidates

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

Unauthorised items

Arrangements for unauthorised items taken into the exam room

The invigilator will tell the students hand in any unauthorised items before entry to the exam room. They will repeat the instruction as part of the invigilator's announcement at the start of the exam. Unauthorised items will be kept at the front of the room until the exam has finished. Bags will not be allowed in the exam room.

Invigilators

- ▶ Are informed of the arrangements through training

Internal exams/assessments

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

Head of centre

- ▶ Ensures the centre's obligations as detailed in the regulations are met. (With reference to GR 5.12 Results, 5.13 Post-results services and appeals, 5.14 Certificates)

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 after the retention period 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 immediately after the publication of results so that results may be discussed and decisions made on the submission of any requests for post-results services and ensures candidates are informed of the periods during which centre staff will be available so that they may plan accordingly

Exams officer

- ▶ Works with senior leaders to ensure procedures for managing the main summer results day(s) (a results day programme) are in place

Results day programme

Students will be invited to come to RHSC on results days to pick up their results. They may nominate someone to pick up their results for them by email from school email address or signed letter. No results will be given out by phone. On results day, all information on post results services will be available, as will senior members of staff for help and advice. This will be communicated to students in the Student Exam handbook and by letter before they leave.

Site staff

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

Accessing results

Head of centre

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

Exams officer

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

Post-results services

Head of centre

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

Exams officer

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

Teaching staff

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

Candidates

- ▶ Meet internal deadlines to request the services

- ▶ Provide informed consent and fees, where relevant

Analysis of results

Data Manager/SLT

- ▶ Provides analysis of results to appropriate centre staff
- ▶ Provides results information to external organisations where required
- ▶ Undertakes the DfE School and College Checking Exercises (where applicable to the centre)
<https://check-your-performance-measures-data.education.gov.uk/hc/en-gb>

Certificates

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

Certificate Issue Procedure and Retention Policy

Certificates are issued to candidates at presentation evenings. Records are kept of which students have collected their certificates. Any remaining certificates are stored securely and can be picked up by student or a nominated representative upon the production of photo ID. A signed record is kept of certificate collection. Certificates are retained securely for 2 years in the Exams Office and are then destroyed securely. A record is kept of which certificates have been destroyed.

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 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

Can be found in the Data Protection Policy (exams) and Examination Archiving Policy, both in the policies folder in the Exams Office.