



Highcliffe School

Examinations Policy

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This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (including Child Protection). All our practice and activities must be consistent and in line with the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures noted above. Any deviations from these policies and procedures should be brought to the attention of the Headteacher so that the matter can be addressed

The purpose of this examination policy is:

- **to ensure the planning and management of examinations is conducted efficiently and in the best interest of candidates**
- **to ensure the operation of an efficient examination system with clear guidelines for all relevant staff.**

It is the responsibility of everyone involved in the centre's examination processes to read, understand and implement this policy.

This examination policy will be reviewed annually.

This examination policy will be reviewed by the Head of Centre, Head of Sixth Form, Senior Leadership Team, Examinations Officer and the Governors.

1. Examination Responsibilities

Head of Centre

Overall responsibility for the school as an examination centre:

- advises on appeals and re-marks
- responsible for reporting all suspicions or actual incidents of malpractice. Refer to the JCQ document *Suspected malpractice in examinations and assessments*.

Examinations Officer

Manages the administration of public and internal examinations and initial analysis of examination results:

- advises the Senior Leadership Team and other relevant staff on examination timetables and application procedures as set by the various Awarding Bodies
- oversees the production and distribution to staff and candidates of a timetable of examinations in which candidates will be involved and communicates regularly with staff concerning imminent deadlines and events
- advises candidates of the JCQ instructions to candidates
- ensures that candidates and their parents are informed of and understand those aspects of the examination timetable that will affect them
- provides data on estimated entries to the Awarding Bodies

- collects annually information from all staff about any conflict of interest for family members or close friends taking exams and passes the information to the awarding bodies in accordance with JCQ regulations.
- receives, checks and stores securely all examination papers and completed scripts
- identifies and manages examination timetable clashes
- accounts for income and outgoings relating to all examination costs/charges
- identifies recruitment needs, training and monitoring of a team of examination invigilators responsible for the conduct of examinations
- submits candidates' controlled test marks, distributes returned Controlled Assessment/Non Examination Assessments any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies correctly and on schedule
- arranges for dissemination of examination results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the Head of Centre, SLT and Directors of Learning/Subject Leaders, any appeals/re-mark requests
- maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their examinations.
- administers Special Consideration applications.
- arranges room changes
- directs the site manager regarding the preparation of examination venues

SLT Member Responsible for Examinations

- external validation of courses followed at key stage 4 / post-16.
- ensures the Controlled Assessment/Non-Examination Assessment Policy is implemented correctly
- consults with teaching staff to ensure that controlled tests are completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines

Investigates, with the Examinations Officer, any suspected cases of malpractice. All malpractice is dealt with in accordance with JCQ regulations and is reported where applicable. If any behaviour is identified that is unacceptable but is not considered as Malpractice according to JCQ regulations this will be dealt with under the centre's own behaviour policy.

Directors of Learning/Subject Leaders

- guidance of candidates who are unsure about examination entries or amendments to entries.
- involvement in post-results procedures.
- accurate completion of mark sheets and declaration sheets.
- accurate completion of entry and all other mark sheets and adherence to deadlines as set by the Examinations Officer.
- ensures teachers handling examination materials and controlled tests are aware of the relevant JCQ instructions.
- ensures that teachers who have access to secure areas of the examination board's websites are aware that results must not be divulged to candidates before they have been collected on results days.

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo)

- administer access arrangements using the JCQ *Access arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration - General and Vocational Qualifications* guidance, and the *Instructions for Conducting Examinations*
- identification and testing of candidates' requirements for access arrangements.
- notifying SCL's and the Data and Examinations office of candidates and their access arrangements at the start of the examined course.
- on-line applications to the examination boards within their deadlines.
- organisation of students with Access Arrangements on examination days and provision of teaching assistants.

Network Manager

- provision of PCs and laptops as requested by SENDCo
- ensures laptops and PCs are set up according to JCQ regulations
- ensures laptops and PCs are set up to print to the Data and Examinations office or the printer in the exam venues as appropriate.
- Manages secure login IDs for exams and storage of files securely as applicable.

Invigilators

- carrying out invigilation duties in accordance with JCQ regulations and centre instructions
- collection of all examination papers in the correct order at the end of the examination.

Candidates (Year 12 and Year 13)

- confirmation and signing of entries
- understanding JCQ coursework and Non-Examination Assessment regulations (available on the school website) and signing a declaration that authenticates the coursework/ Non-Examination Assessment as their own.
- understanding JCQ instructions regarding written and on-screen tests (available on the school website).
- withdrawal from examinations (for example because of a course change) before the examination boards' deadline for withdrawals with full refund. See also 'Fees'.
- following Highcliffe School Examination Guidelines.

Candidates (Year 11)

- understanding controlled test/Non-Examination Assessment regulations (available on the school website) and signing a declaration that authenticates the work as their own.
- understanding JCQ instructions regarding written and on-screen tests (available on the school website).
- following Highcliffe School Examination Guidelines.

Other Administrative staff

- posting of examination papers and coursework as required

Reception Staff

- checking incoming parcels and ensuring that examination parcels are not left unattended.
- informing the examination office immediately examination materials arrive into school and keeping these materials secure until a member of examination office staff or the Site Manager / caretaker collects them.
- ensuring outgoing examination scripts / materials are kept securely until collected.

Site Manager

- collecting examination materials from the School Reception when requested and delivering them to the examinations secure storage.
- setting up of examination venues as required.

2. The Qualifications Offered

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

The statutory tests and qualifications offered are: GCSE, GCE , Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, BTEC, ,.

The subjects offered for these qualifications in any academic year may be found in the centre's published prospectus for that year. If there has been a change of syllabus from the previous year, the examinations office must be informed.

CATS tests (non-statutory) are offered to Year 7, students identified by SEN and other students who may join the school in Year 7, 8, 9 or 10.

At key stage 4 -

All candidates will be entitled, and enabled, to achieve an entry for qualifications from an external awarding body.

At post-16 -

It is expected that under normal circumstances A Level and vocational qualifications will be completed during year 12 and 13.

3. Timetables

3.1 Examination seasons

Internal examinations are scheduled throughout the academic year.

External examinations are scheduled in November, January, March, May and June.

Where possible all internal examinations for years 10 and above are held under external examination conditions.

The examination series used in the centre are decided by the Head of Centre and Directors of Learning/Subject Leaders.

3.2 Timetables

The Examinations Officer will circulate the timetables for external examinations once these are confirmed.

4. Entries, Entry details, Late Entries and Re-sits

4.1 Entries

Candidates are selected for their examination entries by the Head of Sixth form and the Directors of Learning/Subject Leaders.

Candidates, or parents, cannot request a subject entry, change of level or withdrawal without following the correct procedures.

The centre does not accept entries from private candidates.

4.2 Late entries

Entry deadlines are circulated to Directors of Learning/Subject Leaders via email.

Late entries are authorised by Head of Sixth form and Directors of Learning/Subject Leaders.

4.3 Re-sits

Where applicable candidates are required to re-sit GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics in Year 12 or 13.

Candidates following BTEC or Cambridge Technical qualifications are allowed to re-sit units as allowed within the specification

Re-sit decisions will be made in consultation with the candidates, subject teachers, Head of Sixth form, Head of Centre and the Directors of Learning/Subject Leaders.

(See also section 5: Examination fees)

5. Examination Fees

Initial registration and entry examination fees for all qualifications are paid by the centre.

Depending on the circumstances, late entry or amendment fees are paid by the students or curriculum areas.

Candidates or departments will not be charged for changes of tier, withdrawals made by the proper procedures or alterations arising from administrative processes, provided these are made within the time allowed by the awarding bodies.

Reimbursement will be sought from candidates who fail to sit an examination or meet the necessary controlled test requirements and do not provide medical evidence in line with JCQ regulations.

Candidates invoiced for missed examinations because they were absent in previous sessions without good reason, and who have not yet paid the invoice, will not be entered for further examinations until the invoice has been paid.

Re-sit fees for first and any subsequent re-sits are paid by the candidates. (See also section 4.3: Re-sits)

Candidates must pay the fee for an enquiry about a result, should the centre not uphold the enquiry and the candidate insist on pursuing the enquiry. (See also section 11.2: Enquiries about results [EARs] and 11.3 Appeals about EARs)

Students who leave a course and are entered for examinations in that subject will be required to pay for the entries unless withdrawn before the deadline for refunds.

Students who leave school and are entered for examinations will be required to pay for the entries unless withdrawn before the deadline for refunds.

6. The Equality Act, Special Needs and Access Arrangements

6.1 The Equality Act

Section 96 (1-6) of the Equality Act 2010 states that awarding bodies must not discriminate, harass or victimise when conferring general qualifications and have a duty to make reasonable adjustments. All examination centre staff must ensure that the access arrangements and special consideration regulations and guidance are consistent with the law.

6.2 Particular Needs

In accordance with the Joint Council for Qualification's Regulations and guidance 'The SENDCo, fully supported by teaching staff and members of the senior leadership team, must lead on the access arrangements process within his/her centre.' A candidate's particular needs requirements will be determined by SENDCo and the educational psychologist / specialist teacher.

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

7. Access arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments

Access arrangement for examinations, including the use of a word processor, will be considered and granted in accordance with JCQ Regulations. (Please see Appendix A for further details.)

Making special arrangements and reasonable adjustments for candidates to take examinations is the responsibility of the SENDCo.
Submitting completed access arrangement applications to the awarding

bodies is the responsibility of the SENDCo.

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

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

8. Managing Invigilators and Examination Days

8.1 Managing invigilators

External invigilators will be used for examination supervision. They will be used for all examinations.

Invigilator recruitment is the responsibility of the PA to the Headteacher

Securing the necessary Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) clearance for new invigilators is the responsibility of the PA to the Headteacher.

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

Invigilators are timetabled and briefed by the examinations office.

Invigilators' rates of pay are set by the school's governing body.

8.2 Examination days

The Examinations Officer will book all examination rooms after liaison with the Deputy Head and make the question papers, other examination stationery and materials available.

Site management is responsible for setting up the allocated rooms.

An appointed member of staff, usually the Head of achievement and/or the pastoral lead for the year group(s), will be present to identify candidates before entering the exam room and will start all examinations in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Subject staff should also be present at the start of the examination to assist with identification of candidates. Candidates can only be advised of instructions on the front of the examination paper, they must not be given advice on which questions are to be attempted.

In practical examinations subject teachers should be on hand in case of any technical difficulties.

Examination papers must not be removed from the examination room before the end of a session. Papers will be distributed to Directors of Learning/Subject Leaders the day following the examination.

9. Candidates, Clash Candidates and Special Consideration

9.1 Candidates

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

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

Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Candidates may only leave the examination room for a genuine purpose requiring an immediate return to the examination room, in which case a member of staff must accompany them.

The Examinations Officer will attempt to contact any candidate who is not present at the start of an examination and deal with them in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

9.2 Clash candidates

The Examinations Officer will be responsible as necessary for identifying escorts, identifying a secure venue and arranging overnight stays.

9.3 Special consideration

Should a candidate be too ill to sit an examination, suffer bereavement or other trauma it is the candidate's responsibility to alert the centre.

If a candidate is taken ill during an examination, or feels they have been disadvantaged during an examination due to bereavement or other trauma, it is the candidate's responsibility to inform the Examinations Officer or the invigilator on the day of the examination.

Any special consideration claim must be supported by appropriate evidence within five days of the examination, for example a letter from the candidate's doctor.

The Examinations Officer will then forward a completed special consideration request to the relevant awarding body within seven days of the last examination in that subject.

10. Controlled Assessment/Non-Examination Assessments and Appeals against Internal Assessments

10.1 Controlled Assessment/Non-Examination Assessment

See also *Controlled Assessment/Non-Examination Assessment Policy*

Candidates who have to prepare portfolios should do so by the end of the course or centre-defined date.

Directors of Learning/Subject Leaders will ensure all work is ready for despatch at the correct time and the Examinations Officer will keep a record of what has been sent when and to whom.

Marks for all internally assessed work are provided to the examinations office by the subject teachers and the Directors of Learning/Subject Leaders.

10.2 Appeals against internal assessments (see also *Procedure for Appeals about Internal Assessment of Work*)

The centre is obliged to publish a separate procedure on this subject, which is available from the Examinations Office.

The main points are:

- candidates may appeal if they feel their coursework has been assessed unfairly, inconsistently or not in accordance with the specification for the qualification
- appeals should be made, at least one week before the marks should be submitted to the awarding body in writing, to the head of centre (or other nominee) who will decide whether the candidate's mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre..
- the head of centre's findings will be notified in writing, copied to the Examinations Officer and recorded for awarding body inspection.

11. Results, Review of Results (RORs) and Access to Scripts (ATS)

11.1 Results

Candidates will receive individual results slips on results days in person at the centre. Results can be posted if the candidate is unable to collect them personally. Results may be collected by a third party provided they have been authorised to do so.

Results must be kept confidential until the candidates have collected them.

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

The Head of Centre will ensure that senior members of centre staff are available immediately after the publication of results.

The provision of staff on results days is the responsibility of the head of centre.

Information about the Post Results Services available and deadlines will be made available on the school website when results are issued.

11.2 RORs

RORs may be requested by centre staff or candidates if there are reasonable grounds for believing there has been an error in marking.

When the centre does not uphold a ROR, a candidate may apply to have an enquiry carried out. If a candidate requires this against the advice of subject staff, the awarding bodies charges will be payable by the candidate. (See section 5: Examination fees)

11.3 Appeals About RORs

When a ROR outcome is received from the awarding body this will be sent to the candidate and Subject Leader within one working day for due consideration.

Should either candidate or SL wish to appeal against the outcome the Exams Office must be informed in writing within one further working day.

Any charges relating to an appeal will be payable by the candidate unless the school supports the appeal.

Appeals must be made within two calendar weeks of the school receiving the outcome of the enquiry about results. This time scale is determined by the regulators and does not make allowance for the time the centre may be closed for holidays.

11.4 ATS

After the release of results, candidates may ask subject staff to request the return of papers within three days' scrutiny of the results.

If a result is queried, the Examinations Officer, teaching staff, Directors of Learning/Subject Leaders and Head of Centre will investigate the feasibility of asking for a re-mark at the centre's expense.

Centre staff may also request scripts for investigation or for teaching purposes. For the latter, the consent of candidates must be obtained.

A review of marking cannot be applied for once a script has been returned.

12. Certificates

Certificates must be collected and signed for.

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

If delivery by post is requested the school is only permitted to send certificates by Royal Mail Special Delivery. The fee for this service will be payable by the candidate.

Certificates may be withheld from candidates who owe fees.

The centre retains certificates for one year, after which they are destroyed according to the JCQ regulations.

(Reviewed by NLL – September 2023)

APPENDIX A

Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments:

The intention behind an access arrangement is to meet the particular needs of an individual candidate without affecting the integrity of the assessment.

Access Arrangements are available to allow a candidate access to an assessment and not to improve a candidate's achievement in it. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) states that: 'Access Arrangements allow candidates/learners with special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to access the assessment without changing the demands of the assessment'. Highcliffe School adheres to JCQ regulations and follows JCQ guidance.

Access arrangements must be agreed before any assessment.

Where a potential need for access arrangements has been identified for a candidate the steps below will be followed:

1. There will be a period of investigation to ascertain a history of need and the student's usual way of working.
2. JCQ Form 8 will be completed.
3. If appropriate, after completion of the form 8, a range of assessments can be carried out by a special assessor to see if the candidate's level meets the JCQ criteria.
4. When all these steps have been successfully completed an application for Access Arrangements will be made to the JCQ.

The granting of arrangements is at the discretion of the JCQ and therefore the application can be declined.

Failure to comply with the JCQ regulations have the potential to constitute malpractice which may impact on the candidate's result(s).

Failure to comply is defined as:

- putting in place access arrangements that are not approved; or
- permitting access arrangements within the centre which are not supported by appropriate evidence.

Use of a Word Processor in Written Exams:

Highcliffe School grants all students' Access Arrangements in line with the JCQ guidance and policy. Therefore, a word processor cannot be granted to a candidate because he/she now wants to type rather than write in examinations or can work faster on a keyboard, or because he/she uses a laptop at home. The use of a word processor must reflect the candidate's normal way of working within the centre.

Examples, from the JCQ, of types of candidates who may benefit from the use of a word processor are a candidate with:

- a learning difficulty which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to write legibly;
- a medical condition;
- a physical disability;
- a sensory impairment;

(This list is not exhaustive.)

In cases of legibility, before the use of a word processor is granted, there must be clear evidence that despite attempts at improvement through practice, and where appropriate intervention, the candidate has been unable to make appreciable improvements to legibility. It should be noted that legibility can be quantified through the use of a specialist assessor.

