



Exams policy - 2025/26

Purpose of the policy

St Edmund's is committed to ensuring that the exams management and administration process is run effectively and efficiently and in compliance with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements.

This exam policy will ensure that:

- all aspects of the centre's exam process is documented, supporting the exams contingency plan and other relevant exams-related policies, procedures and plans are signposted
- the workforce is well informed and supported
- all centre staff involved in the exams process clearly understand their roles and responsibilities
- All exams and assessments are conducted according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions, thus maintaining the integrity and security of the exam/assessment system at all times.
- Exam candidates understand the exams process and what is expected of them.

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure ways of working in the centre are accurately reflected and that exams and assessments are conducted to current JCQ (and awarding body) regulations, instructions and guidance.

Staff will be emailed a copy of the policy and it will be placed on the shared drive in the Policies folder.

Roles and responsibilities overview

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

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

The Head of Centre may not appoint themselves as the Examinations Officer. Head of Centre and an Examinations Officer are two distinct and separate roles.

Head of Centre responsibilities

The 'Head of Centre' is the most senior operational officer in the organisation. This may be the headteacher of a school, the principal of a college, the Chief Executive Officer of an Academy Trust or the Managing Director of a company or training provider. It is the responsibility of the Head of Centre to ensure that all staff comply with the instructions in this booklet.

This policy will be communicated or brought to the attention of all those identified with roles and responsibilities within the policy, by email and publication on Every.

Head of Centre

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - General regulations for approved centres* (GR)
 - Instructions for conducting examinations* (ICE)
 - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments* (AA)
 - Suspected Malpractice – Policies and procedures* (SM)
 - A guide to the special consideration process* (SC)
 - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments* (NEA) (and the instructions for conducting coursework)

National Centre Number Register

- Takes responsibility for confirming, on an annual basis, that they are aware of and adhering to the latest version of the JCQ's regulations by responding to the Head of Centre's declaration which is managed as part of the National Centre Number Register (NCNR) annual update
- Understands that this responsibility cannot be delegated to a member of the Senior Leadership Team or the Examinations Officer, and acknowledges that failure to respond to the NCNR annual update, and/or the Head of Centre's declaration, will result in:
 - 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 remove their approval of the centre.

Recruitment, selection and training of staff

- Retains a workforce of an appropriate size and competence, including sufficient managerial and other resource, to undertake the delivery of the qualification as required by an awarding body. This includes taking reasonable steps to ensure occupational competence where this is required for the assessment of specific qualifications
- Provides fully qualified teachers to mark non-examination assessments, and/or fully qualified assessors for the verification of centre-assessed components

- Enables the relevant senior leader(s), the Examinations Officer and the SENCo to receive appropriate training and support in order to facilitate the effective delivery of examinations and assessments within the centre, and ensure compliance with the published JCQ regulations
- Appoints a SENCo who will determine appropriate arrangements for candidates with learning difficulties and disabilities

Internal governance arrangements

- Has in place a written escalation process should the Head of Centre, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team with oversight of examination administration, be absent

Escalation Process

- Has in place a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will provide support and guidance to the Examinations Officer and ensure that the integrity and security of examinations and assessments is maintained throughout an examination series
- Ensures centre staff are supported and appropriately trained to undertake key tasks within the exams process
- Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
- Ensures that a teacher who teaches the subject being examined, or a senior member of teaching staff who has had overall responsibility for the subject department and /or preparing the candidates for the examination, is not an invigilator during the timetabled written examination or on-screen test
- Ensures confidentiality and security within the examination process is compliant with and managed according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions including

Delivery of qualifications

- Delivers qualifications, as required by the awarding body, in accordance with relevant equality legislation. This includes but is not limited to ensuring that qualifications are made available to all candidates capable of undertaking them and seeking reasonable adjustments for disabled candidates
- Enables candidates to receive sufficient and up to date laboratory experience, or relevant training where required by the subject concerned
- Where/if using a third party to deliver any part of a qualification 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 ensuring that a copy of the written agreement is available for inspection if requested by the awarding body
- Ensuring that urgent issues are dealt with promptly outside of term time, by giving necessary contact details of senior member of staff to exam boards, when requested.

Public liability

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

Security of assessment materials

- Takes all reasonable steps to maintain the integrity of the examinations/assessments, including the security of all assessment materials, by ensuring:
 - the location of the centre's secure storage facility in a secure room solely assigned to examinations for the purpose of administering secure examination materials
 - the secure room only contains exam-related material
 - there are between two and six keyholders only, each of whom must fully understand their responsibilities as a key holder to the secure storage facility
 - access to the secure room and secure storage facility is restricted to the authorised two to six keyholders and staff named and approved by the Head of Centre are accompanied by a keyholder at all times
 - the Exams Officer must be one of the key holders, and all key holders must be a permanent member of staff
 - appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential materials are only handed over to authorised members of centre staff
 - the relevant awarding body is immediately informed if the security of question papers or confidential supporting instructions is put at risk
 - that when it is permitted to remove question papers from secure storage, and to avoid potential breaches of security, arrangements are in place to carefully check and record that the correct question paper packets are opened
- Makes arrangements to receive, check and store question papers and examination material safely and securely at all times and for as long as required in accordance with the current JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations*
- Makes arrangements to receive and issue material received from the awarding bodies to staff and candidates, and notify them of any advice and instructions relevant to the examinations and assessments
- Allows candidates access to relevant pre-release materials on, or as soon as possible after, the date specified by the awarding bodies
- Through taking an ethical approach and working proactively to avoid malpractice among students and staff takes all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice/maladministration before, during the course of and after examinations have taken place
- Ensures any person involved in administering, teaching or completing examinations/assessments is advised that where malpractice is suspected, or alleged, personal data about them will be provided to the awarding body (or bodies) whose examinations/assessments are involved. Personal data about them may also be shared with other awarding bodies, the qualifications regulator or professional bodies in accordance with the JCQ publication *Suspected malpractice – Policies and procedures*

- Ensures irregularities are investigated and informs the awarding bodies of any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, are reported to the awarding body immediately
- Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place (that allow the Senior Leadership Team to act immediately in the event of an emergency or staff absence)

Exam contingency plan St Edmund's has a separate Exams Contingency policy.

- Ensures required internal appeals procedures are in place

Internal appeals procedures St Edmund's have a separate Internal Appeals Policy.

- Ensures a disability policy for exams 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) St Edmund's has a separate Equalities policy for exams.

- Ensures a complaints and appeals 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 and appeals procedure St Edmund's has a separate Complaints and Appeals policy for exams.

Child protection/safeguarding policy St Edmund's has a separate Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

- 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 St Edmund's has a separate Data protection Policy in place

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

Access arrangements policy St Edmund's has a separate Access Arrangements policy

- Ensures the relevant awarding bodies are informed of any **Conflict of Interest** where
 - a member of centre staff is taking a qualification at the centre which includes internally assessed components/units (taking at the centre as a last resort where unable to find an alternative centre)
 - a candidate is being taught and prepared for a qualification which includes internally assessed components/units by a member of centre staff with a personal connection to the candidate
- Maintains records that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected by the above, and where
 - a member of exams office staff have a personal connection to a candidate being entered for exams and assessments at the centre or at another centre

- a member of centre staff is taking a qualification at the centre which does not include internally assessed components/units (taking at the centre as a last resort where unable to find an alternative centre)
- a member of centre staff is taking a qualification at another centre

Conflicts of Interest Policy (Exams)

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 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 (taking at the centre as a last resort where unable to find an alternative centre)
 - a candidate is being taught and prepared for a qualification which includes internally assessed components/units by a member of centre staff with close relationship to the candidate
- Maintains clear records that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected by the above, and where
 - a member of exams office staff has a close relationship to a candidate being entered for exams and assessments at the centre or at another centre
 - a member of centre staff is taking a qualification at the centre which does not include internally assessed components/units (taking at the centre as a last resort where unable to find an alternative centre)
 - a member of centre staff is taking a qualification at another centre
- confidentiality of the exam materials.
- Ensures members of centre staff do **not** forward e-mails and letters from awarding body or JCQ personnel without prior consent to third parties or upload such correspondence onto social media sites and applications
- Ensures members of centre staff do **not** advise parents/candidates to contact awarding bodies/JCQ directly nor provide them with addresses/email addresses of awarding body examining/assessment or JCQ personnel

Centre inspections

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

Exams Officer

“The Examinations Officer or quality assurance co-ordinator is the person appointed by a Head of Centre to act on behalf of the centre in matters relating to the administration of awarding body examinations and assessments.” [GR 1]

- Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - General Regulations for Approved Centres
 - Instructions for Conducting Examinations
 - Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures
 - Post-results services (PRS)
 - A guide to the special consideration process
- Completes/submits the National Centre Number Register annual update (administered on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies by OCR <https://ocr.org.uk/administration/ncn-annual-update/>) by the end of October each year
- Is familiar with the contents of annually updated information from awarding bodies on administrative procedures, key tasks, key dates and deadlines
- Ensures key tasks are undertaken and key dates and deadlines met
- Recruits, trains and deploys a team of internal/external invigilators; appoints lead invigilators, as required and keeps a record of the content of training provided to invigilators for the required period
- Works with the ALS lead/SENCo to ensure invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates and those acting as a facilitator supporting access arrangement candidates fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room
- Supports the Head of Centre in ensuring that awarding bodies are informed (where required) of any Conflict of Interest declared by members of centre staff and in maintaining records that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected before the published deadline for entries for each examination series
- Briefs other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials on the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials

Senior leaders (SLT)

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

Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo)

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

Head of department (HoD)

- Ensures teaching staff undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process (exam cycle) and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and SENCo
- Ensures teaching staff keep themselves updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Ensures teaching staff attend relevant awarding body training and update events

Teaching staff

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

Invigilators

- Attend/undertake training, update, briefing and review sessions as required
- Provide information as requested on their availability to invigilate
- Sign a confidentiality and security agreement and confirm whether they have any current maladministration/malpractice sanctions applied to them

Reception staff

- Support the EO in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials and follow the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials

Site staff

- Support the EO in relevant matters relating to exam rooms and resources

Candidates

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

The exam cycle

The exams management and administration process that needs to be undertaken for each **exam series** is often referred to as the **exam cycle** and relevant tasks required within this grouped into the following stages:

- Planning
- Entries
- Pre-exams
- Exam time
- Results and post-results

This policy identifies roles and responsibilities of centre staff within this cycle.

Planning: roles and responsibilities

Information sharing

Head of Centre

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

Exams Officer

- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ publications and awarding body documentation relating to the exams process that has been updated
- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ information that should be provided to candidates
- As the centre administrator, approves relevant access rights for centre staff to access awarding body secure extranet sites

Information gathering

Exams Officer

- Undertakes an annual information gathering exercise in preparation for each new academic year to ensure data about all qualifications being delivered is up to date and correct
- Collates all information gathered into one central point of reference
- Researches awarding body guidance to identify administrative processes, key tasks, key dates and deadlines for all relevant qualifications
- Produces an annual exams plan of key tasks and key dates to ensure all external deadlines can be effectively met; informs key centre staff of internal deadlines
- Collects information on internal exams to enable their preparation 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 there is appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements in the centre for all examinations and assessments
- Ensures a written process is in place to not only check the qualification(s) of the appointed assessor(s) but that the correct procedures are followed as per ch7 of the JCQ publication Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments
- Ensures the SENCo 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** of an affected candidate
- Determines candidate eligibility for arrangements or adjustments that are centre-delegated
- Gathers signed **Personal data consent, Privacy Notice (AAO) and Data Protection confirmation** forms from candidates where required
- Applies for **approval** through **Access arrangements online (AAO)** via the **Centre Admin Portal (CAP)**, where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Keeps a file for each candidate for JCQ inspection purposes containing all the required documentation (if documentation is stored electronically, an e-folder must be created for each individual candidate. The candidate's e-folder must hold each of the required documents for inspection)
- Employs good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010
- Liaises with the EO regarding exam time arrangements for access arrangement candidates
- Ensures staff appointed to facilitate access arrangements for candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular arrangement(s) and keeps a record of the content of training provided to facilitators for the required period
- Works with the EO to ensure invigilators and those acting as a facilitator fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room
- Provides and annually reviews a centre policy on the **use of word processors** in exams and assessments

Word processor policy (exams) St Edmund's has a separate Word processor policy.

- Ensures criteria for candidates granted **separate invigilation within the centre** is clear, meets JCQ regulations and best meets the needs of individual candidates and remaining candidates in main exam rooms

Alternative rooming arrangements within the centre

Alternative rooming arrangements are determined by the SENCo in conjunction with the Exams Officer. Separate invigilation will only be offered to candidates who have a substantial, long term impairment which has an adverse effect on the candidate's normal way of working. This could include a candidate under CAMHS, or a candidate with an established medical condition or formally recognised social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. In all cases the SENCo will have written evidence documenting these needs. These candidates would normally have required separate invigilation during internal school tests and mock exams and would have a history of need.

Senior Leaders, Head of department, Teaching staff

- Support the SENCo in determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements
- Provide a statement for inspection purposes which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations

Internal assessment and endorsements

Head of Centre

Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments

- Ensures arrangements are in place to co-ordinate and standardise all marking of centre-assessed components and ensures that candidates' centre-assessed work is produced, authenticated and marked, or assessed and quality assured in accordance with the awarding bodies' instructions (including where relevant, private candidates)
- Ensures that teaching staff, in accordance with awarding bodies' instructions, return all subject-specific forms by the required date
- Provides fully qualified teachers to mark non-examination assessments
- Ensures an **internal appeals procedure** relating to internal assessment decisions is in place for a candidate (or parent/carer) to appeal against and request a review of the centre's marking where required by the awarding body.
- Ensures a non-examination assessment (NEA) policy is in place for new GCSE qualifications which include components of non-examination assessment

Non-examination assessment policy St Edmund's has a separate NEA policy

- ▶ Ensures any irregularities relating to the production of work by candidates are investigated and dealt with internally if discovered prior to a candidate signing the authentication statement (where required) or reported to the awarding body if a candidate has signed the authentication statement

Senior leaders

- Ensure teaching staff have the necessary and appropriate knowledge, understanding, skills, and training to set tasks, conduct task taking, and to assess, mark and authenticate candidates' work (including where relevant, private candidates)
- Ensure appropriate internal moderation, standardisation and verification processes are in place
- Ensure teaching staff delivering AQA Applied General qualifications, OCR Cambridge Nationals, Entry Level Certificate or Project qualifications (and CCEA GCE unitised AS and

- A-level qualifications and WJEC GCE legacy AS and A-level Health & Social Care) follow JCQ Instructions for conducting coursework and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensure teaching staff delivering GCE & GCSE specifications (which include components of non-examination assessment) follow JCQ Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments and the specification provided by the awarding body
 - For other qualifications, ensure teaching staff follow appropriate instructions issued by the awarding body
 - Ensure teaching staff 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, (not CIE coursework).

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 the supervision of candidates is maintained at all times.

Exams Officer

- Recruits additional invigilators where required to effectively cover all exam periods/series' throughout the academic year
- Collects information on new recruits to identify if they have invigilated previously and if any current maladministration/malpractice sanctions are applied to them
- Provides training for new invigilators on the instructions for conducting exams and an annual update for the existing invigilating team so that they are aware of any changes in a new academic year before they are allocated to invigilate an exam.

- 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 arrangements candidates in their exam room and made aware of the access arrangements awarded (and that these candidates are indicated on the seating plan) and confirms that invigilators understand what is and what is not permissible
- Ensures invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues
- Collects evaluation of training to inform future events

Entries: roles and responsibilities

Estimated entries

Exams Officer

- Requests estimated or early entry information, where this may be required by awarding bodies, from HoDs in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met, and submits the estimated entries online via the relevant website.
- Makes candidates aware of the JCQ Information for candidates Privacy notice at the start of a vocational qualification or when entries are being processed for a general qualification

Senior leaders

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

Final entries

Exams Officer

- Requests final entry information from HoDs in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met
- Informs HoDs of subsequent deadlines for making changes to final entry information without charge
- Confirms with HoDs final entry information that has been submitted to awarding bodies
- Ensures as far as possible that entry processes minimise the risk of entries or registrations being missed reducing the potential for late or other penalty fees being charged by awarding bodies
- Observes each awarding body's terms and conditions for the entry and withdrawal of candidates for their examinations and assessments.
- Makes candidates aware of the **JCQ Information for candidates – Privacy Notice** at the start of a course leading to a vocational qualification or when entries are submitted to awarding bodies for processing for general qualifications
- Candidates must not be entered for the same subject at the same qualification level with more than one awarding body in the same series

Senior Leaders

- 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

The EO will inform the Bursar of the exam entries and fees which are collated through the Engage fees software.

Exams Officer

- Has clear entry procedures in place to minimise the risk of late entries

Senior Leaders

Minimises the risk of late entries by following procedures identified by the EO in relation to making final entries on time and meeting internal deadlines identified by the EO for making final entries

Private candidates St Edmund's does not currently accept private candidates.

Candidate statements of entry

Exams Officer

- Provides candidates with statements of entry for checking

Teaching staff

- Ensure candidates check statements of entry and return any relevant confirmation required to the EO

Candidates

- Confirm entry information is correct or notify the EO of any discrepancies

Pre-exams: roles and responsibilities

Access arrangements

SENCo

- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access to exams/assessments for candidates where they are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act (unless a temporary emergency arrangement is required at the time of an exam)

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

Briefing candidates

Exams Officer

- Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates and informs candidates of any designated contingency day awarding bodies may identify in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams
- Prior to exams issues relevant JCQ information for candidates documents
- Where relevant, issues relevant awarding body information to candidates
- Issues centre exam information to candidates including information on:
 - exam timetable clashes
 - arriving late for an exam
 - absence or illness during exams
 - what equipment is/is not provided by the centre
 - food and drink in exam rooms
 - unauthorised items in exam rooms
 - when and how results will be issued and the staff that will be available
 - the post-results services and how the centre deals with requests from candidates
 - when and how certificates will be issued

Access to scripts, reviews of results and appeals procedures

Candidates are issued with an Exams Handbook with their statements of Entry. This includes information about results and the review procedures, costs and deadlines. This information is also issued with results in August.

Dispatch of exam scripts

Exams Officer

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

Estimated grades (where required)

Head of department

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

Exams Officer

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

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 with appropriate exam boards.

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 annually updated invigilator handbook to invigilators, trains new invigilators and updates experienced invigilators annually on any regulation changes, and any changes to centre-specific processes
- Must ensure that the testing of invigilators' competence and their understanding of these regulations is rigorous. This must also extend to those facilitating an access arrangement.
- Deploys invigilators effectively to exam rooms throughout an exam series (including the provision of a roving invigilator where a candidate and invigilator acting as reader or scribe are accommodated on a 1:1 basis), to ensure all relevant rules are being adhered to, and integrity maintained
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to a timetable clash/variation) according to the required ratios
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates
- The person appointed to invigilate an access arrangement must not normally be the candidate's own subject teacher or teaching assistant.

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 inspection visit

Exams Officer or senior leader

- Will accompany the Inspector throughout the 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 the information is readily available for inspection at the venue where the candidate is taking exams.

Seating and identifying candidates in exam rooms

Exams Officer

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

Verifying candidate identity procedure

A senior member of the senior school staff supervises candidates outside the examination room before the exam; they can verify the identity of all candidates. Due to the size of the cohort the Exams Officer can also identify all candidates. The candidates sit in the same seats for all exams and have photo identity card on their desk. Where it is impossible to identify a candidate due to the wearing of religious clothing such as a veil the candidate will be taken to a private room by an invigilator of the same gender and asked to remove the veil for identification purposes. Candidates will be informed in advance of their first exam that this will happen.

Invigilators will be made aware of access arrangements in advance, and candidates identified on the seating plan and on their desk identity card.

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

Invigilators

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

Security of exam materials

Exams Officer

- Confirms appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential materials are only handed over to those authorised by the Head of Centre
- Ensures access to the secure room is restricted and staff named and approved by the Head of Centre are accompanied by a keyholder at all times. There must be between two and six keyholders only, each of whom must fully understand their responsibilities as a key holder to the secure storage facility
- Has a process in place to demonstrate the receipt, secure movement and secure storage of confidential exam materials within the centre.
- In order to avoid potential breaches of security, care must be taken to ensure that the correct question paper packets are opened. A member of centre staff, additional to the person removing the question paper packets from secure storage, e.g. an invigilator, must check the day, date, time, subject, unit/component and tier of entry, if appropriate, immediately before a question paper packet is opened. This check must be recorded.
- Ensures a log is kept at the initial point of delivery recording confidential materials received and signed for by authorised staff within the centre and that appropriate arrangements are in place for confidential materials to be immediately transferred to the secure storage facility until they can be removed from the dispatch packaging and checked in the secure room before being returned to the secure storage facility in timetable order.
- Ensure the secure storage facility contains only current, live confidential material including live confidential exam stationary provided by the awarding body for the use of candidates

in their assessments. Ensuring that past examination question papers, internal tests and mock exams are not kept in the 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)
- Unless the question papers being removed are required for an alternative site they must not leave the secure room any earlier than 60 minutes prior to the awarding body's published starting time for the examination;
- Scripts are always kept in the secure room until as close to the collection time as possible. Script packages must not be left unattended at the collection area.
- Ensures the integrity and security of any electronic question paper is maintained during the downloading, printing and collating process (ensuring printing is carried out in an area that can be controlled to prevent unauthorised personnel accessing live assessment materials and ensuring only authorised members of centre staff have access to electronic question papers). Please see section 4 of the ICE booklet, **Arrangements for handling secure electronic materials**.

Reception staff

- Adhere to the process to log confidential materials delivered to/received by the centre to the point materials are issued to authorised staff for transferal to the secure storage facility

Teaching staff

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

Timetabling and rooming

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 and according to the centres policy)

Overnight supervision policy

Overnight supervision arrangements should only be applied as a last resort and once all other options have been exhausted...

...candidates may, at the centre's discretion, be allowed to take an examination the following morning, including Saturdays (see paragraph 8.5, page 14). Candidates are not allowed to take examinations on an earlier day than that scheduled on the timetable...

The overnight supervision arrangements **must** ensure that the candidate **does not** have advance warning of the content of the examination deferred until the following morning. This means the candidate **must not** meet or communicate with anyone who may have knowledge of the content. This includes any form of electronic communication/storage device, e.g. telephone (both landline and mobile), e-mail, Internet and social media. It

also extends to television and radio, which could report key details of the day's examinations. [ICE 8]

Saint Edmunds has on site living arrangements for some staff and their families and this will be used in event of overnight supervision.

- 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

- Where/if applicable ensures question papers will only be taken to an alternative site where the published criteria for an alternative site arrangement has been met
- Will inform the JCQ Centre Inspection Service to timescale by submitting JCQ *Alternative Site arrangement notification through CAP or through awarding body* 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

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

Internal exams

Exams Officer

- Prepares for the conduct of internal exams under external conditions
- Provides a centre exam timetable of subjects and rooms
- Provides seating plans and exam regulations 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, and ensures the collection of evidence for future Access Arrangement applications.

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

Access arrangements

Exams Officer

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

Candidate late arrival and/or absence

Candidate late arrival and/or absence policy

Senior staff supervising the arrival of candidates outside the exam room will be able to raise the alarm if a candidate is missing. The invigilators will also be able to identify an absent candidate quickly from the seating plan and attendance register. The EO will be informed and the Front office will immediately try and contact the candidate and/or parents and pass any information to the EO. Where possible the candidate will be encouraged to come and take the exam, Parents will be asked to remove mobile phones and communication devices and deliver the pupil to the EO personally, who will then arrange for the candidate to sit the exam. If the candidate arrives within the late arrival window they will be taken to the exam room and receive the full time allowance. If their arrival falls within the very late arrival window the EO will explain to the candidate that their paper may not be accepted by the exam board. The EO will obtain a signed statement from the supervising adult, and document the process from the first phone call. The EO will arrange for the

candidate to sit the exam and they will receive the full time allowance. The EO will report the very late arrival with supporting evidence immediately. The exam paper will be sent to the Exam Board with the cohort.

If a candidate is absent for all or part of an exam because they are unwell they will be required to complete JCQ/ME Form I4 self-certification for candidates who are ill. The Exams Officer will liaise with the candidate and parents and make the application for special consideration if applicable.

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

Exams Officer

- Ensures that candidates who arrive very late for an exam are reported to the awarding body through CAP as soon as practically possible after the exam has taken place
- Warns candidates that their script may not be accepted by the awarding body
- Ensures candidate who miss an exam through illness complete form I4

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 belongings

See *unauthorised items* below.

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 additional/second check is recorded
- Ensures this additional/second check (which takes place in the secure room if the packet has to be split or in the exam room if not) 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
- Question papers must not be released to centre personnel until after the awarding body's published finishing time for the examination or, in the case of a timetable variation, until all candidates within the centre have completed the examination. For CCEA examinations, question papers must not be released until 24 hours after the published finishing time for the examination.

Exam rooms

Head of Centre

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

Food and drink in exam rooms

Candidates may take one small bottle of water with no labels into the exam room. No food is allowed unless there is a medical reason, and this would need to be authorised by the EO in advance who would need to brief invigilators and check the packaging.

Food brought into the examination room by the candidate must be free of packaging and in a transparent container; drink bottles must be transparent with all labels removed which would include transparent, reusable plastic bottles.

Candidates temporarily leaving the exam room

Candidates who are allowed to leave the examination room temporarily **must** be accompanied by a member of centre staff. This **must not** be the candidate's subject teacher or a subject expert for the examination in question. Those candidates may be allowed extra time at the discretion of the centre to compensate for their temporary absence. [ICE 23]

The Exams Officer and the lead invigilator will decide whether a candidate who leaves the room temporarily should be awarded the extra time at the end of the exam. This is not usually granted for a toilet break.

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 it must be on silent.
- 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 in 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

Emergency evacuation policy

St Edmund's has a separate Emergency Evacuation policy for exams

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. Candidates eligible for extra time may leave with the other candidates if they choose not to use their extra time allowance.
- Candidates must not open the question paper until the exam begins

Irregularities & Malpractice

Head of Centre

- ▶ Ensures (as required by the 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

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

Special consideration

Exams Officer

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

Special consideration policy St Edmund's has a separate Special Consideration Policy **Candidates**

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

Unauthorised materials

Arrangements for unauthorised materials taken into the exam room

Candidates are briefed before the exams, and throughout their internal school exams about unauthorised items. Candidate's bags and coats are left in the senior library. Candidates are reminded about unauthorised materials outside the exam room by the Exams Officer or senior Leader and again by the invigilator in the JCQ announcement in the exam room. If a candidate were to take an unauthorised item into the exam room it would be placed at the front of the room on the invigilators desk. Invigilators read the JCQ invigilators announcement at the beginning of all exams.

Invigilators

- Are informed of the arrangements through training

Internal exams

Exams Officer

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

Invigilators

- Conduct internal exams as briefed by the EO

Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities

Internal assessment

Head of department

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

Managing results day(s)

Senior leaders

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

Exams Officer

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

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 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 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

Certificates

Certificates are provided to centres by awarding bodies after results have been confirmed, usually in November.

Issue of certificates procedure

Certificates will be posted to pupils by recorded delivery.

Review: roles and responsibilities

Exams Officer

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

Senior leaders

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

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 St Edmund's has a separate Archiving Policy for Exams.

Reviewed by NCS, March 2026