



ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT:

Purpose

- 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.

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Agreed by Directors – May 2019

SIGNED

DATE

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Examinations Policy

1. Examination responsibilities

Head of Centre

Overall responsibility for the school as an examination centre:

- Advises on appeals and re-marks.
- The Head of Centre is 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 assists with analysis of examination results:

- Advises the SLT, subject and class tutors and other relevant support staff on annual examination timetables and application procedures as set by the various examination boards.
- Communicates regularly with staff concerning imminent deadlines and events.
- Maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their examinations.
- Ensures that candidates and their parents are informed of and understand those aspects of the examination timetable and procedures that will affect them.
- Consults with teaching staff to ensure that necessary coursework/ controlled assessments are completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- Provides and confirms detailed data on estimated entries.
- Receives, checks and stores securely all examination papers and completed scripts.
- Ensures that no unauthorised persons are allowed access to examination paper storeroom without permission from Examinations Officer. Visitors must be supervised at all times whilst examination papers are in centre.
- Administers access arrangements and makes applications for special consideration using the *JCQ Access arrangements and special considerations regulations and Guidance* relating to candidates who are eligible for adjustments in examinations.
- Identifies and manages examination timetable clashes.
- Accounts for income and expenditures relating to all examination costs/ charges.
- Organises the recruitment, training and monitoring of a team of examination invigilators responsible for the conduct of examinations.

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- Submits candidates' coursework/ controlled assessment marks, tracks despatch and deals with returned coursework/ controlled assessments and any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies correctly and on schedule.
- Posts all coursework/ controlled assessments and examination papers.
- Oversees the investigation of all the cases of malpractice and reports to the Head of Centre.
- Prepares and presents reports to the SLT showing results achieved, indicating where future procedural improvements might be made.
- Arranges for dissemination of examination results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the SLT, any appeals/ re-mark requests.

Deputy Head/ Assistant Head Teacher

- Organises learning and teaching.
- Externally validates courses followed at Key Stage 4/ Sixth Form.

Subject Lead / Heads of Department

- Provide guidance and pastoral oversight of candidates who are unsure about examination entries or amendments to entries.
- Accurately complete all registration and entry marksheets in adherence to deadlines as set by the Examinations Officer.
- Accurately complete all coursework/ controlled assessment marksheets and declaration sheets.
- Accurately complete all forecast grades marksheets.
- Decide about post-results procedures.
- Provide data for estimated entries.
- Report all cases of malpractice or suspected malpractice to Examinations Officer.

Head of Careers

- Provides Guidance and careers information.

Teachers

- Notify of access arrangements (as soon as possible after the start of the course).
- Submit candidates' examination entries to Subject Lead / Heads of Department.
- Report suspected malpractice to Subject Lead / Heads of Department.

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SENCO

- Identifies and tests candidates' requirements for access arrangements.
- Administers applications for access arrangements using the *JCQ Access arrangements and special considerations regulations and Guidance*.
- Provides additional support — with spelling, reading, mathematics, dyslexia or essential skills, hearing impairment, English for speakers of other languages, IT equipment — to help candidates achieve their course aims.

Invigilators

- Collect examination materials at the direction of the Examinations Officer.
- Help to prepare examination room.
- Inform the Examinations Officer of any candidates arriving late or of any irregularities during the examination.
- Ensure that all registers are taken before the end of the examination.
- Maintain the conduct of the examination room in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- Collect all examination papers in the correct order at the end of the examination and return them to the examinations office.
- Collect other examination materials at the direction of the Examinations Officer.

Candidates

- Check, confirm and sign the Statement of entries.
- Understand coursework/ controlled assessment regulations and sign a declaration that authenticates the coursework/ controlled assessment as their own.
- Adhere to deadlines for coursework submission as set by the centre.
- Are punctual for the start of all examinations.
- Follow JCQ and centre regulations with regards to examination behaviour.
- Are committed to assessment for access arrangements and accept any examination arrangements recommended.

Receptionist/ Premises Manager

- Informs the Examinations Officer immediately when examination papers are delivered and ensures that examination papers are not left unattended at any time.

2. The statutory tests and qualification offered

The statutory tests and qualifications offered at this centre are decided by the Head of Centre and the Senior Leadership Team.

The statutory tests and qualifications offered are Entry level qualifications, Functional Literacy and Numeracy Tests, GCSEs.

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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 by 1st July

At Key Stage 4

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

At Sixth Form

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

3. Examinations seasons and timetables

3.1 Examination seasons

Internal examinations and controlled assessments are scheduled in October, December, February, March and July but this is subject to change.

All internal examinations are held under external examination conditions. External examinations are scheduled in November and May/June.

Which examination series are used in the centre is decided by the Head of Centre and the Senior Leadership Team.

3.2 Timetables

The Examinations Officer will circulate the examination timetables for both external and internal examinations once these are confirmed.

4. Entries, entry details, late entries and results

4.1 Entries

Candidates are selected for their examination entries by the Subject Lead / Heads of Department.

Key Stage 4 candidates or parents/ guardians cannot request a subject entry, change of level or withdrawal without consultation with the Subject Lead / Heads of Department.

The centre accepts external entries from former candidates only.

4.2 Late entries

Entry deadlines are circulated to Subject Lead / Heads of Department via e-mail/ memos and staff briefing.

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Late entries are authorised by Subject Lead / Heads of Department and Examinations Officer.

4.3 Resits

Resit decisions will be made in consultation with the candidates, subject teachers and the Subject Lead / Heads of Department.

(See also section 5: Examination fees)

5. Examination fees

All initial registration and entry examination fees are paid by the school.

Late entry or amendment fees will be re-covered from the relevant subject department.

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.

It will be at the school's discretion as to whether reimbursements will be sought from candidates who fail to sit an examination or meet the necessary coursework/ controlled assessment requirements without a valid reason.

All resit fees are paid by the school.

Candidates must pay the fee for an enquiry about a result, should the centre not uphold the enquiry and the candidate insists on pursuing the enquiry.

(See also section 11.2: Enquiries about results [EARs])

6. The Equality Act 2010 (please also refer to the college's Single Equality Duty)

6.1 The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 extends the application of the Equality Act to general qualifications. All examination centre staff must ensure that the access arrangements and special consideration regulations and guidance are consistent with the law.

6.2 Special needs

A candidate's special needs requirements are determined by the SENCO. Any access arrangements agreed must be candidate's normal way of working.

The SENCO will inform subject teachers of candidates with special educational needs who are embarking on a course leading to an examination, and the date of that examination.

The SENCO can then inform individual staff of any special arrangements that individual candidates may be granted during the course and in the examination.

6.3 Access arrangements

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Making and applying for special arrangements for candidates to take examinations is the responsibility of the SENCO and the Examinations Officer.

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

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

7. Estimated grades

Estimated grades

The Subject Lead / Heads of Department will submit estimated grades to the Examinations Officer when requested, observing the guidelines set by relevant examining boards.

8. Managing invigilators and examination days

8.1 Managing invigilators

Due to nature of our students and the relatively small numbers of students sitting examinations internal invigilators will be used for all examination supervision.

Invigilators are timetabled and briefed by the examinations officer.

8.2 Examination days

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

Site management is responsible for setting up the allocated rooms.

The Examinations Officer/ invigilator will start all examinations in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

SLT members will be present at the start of the examination to assist with the discipline and identification of candidates but must not advise on which questions are to be attempted. They will also be present at the end of the examination.

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

Examination papers must not be read by subject teachers or removed from the examination room before the end of a session. Papers will be distributed to Subject Lead / Heads of Department 24 hours after the examination session.

9. Candidates, clash candidates and special consideration

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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 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

Though unlikely in the event of there being a clash candidate, the Examinations Officer will be responsible as necessary for arranging supervision and escorts for clash candidates and dealing with necessary administration.

9.3 Special consideration

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

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

The Examinations Officer will then apply for special consideration within seven days of the examination.

10. Coursework / Controlled Assessments and appeals against internal assessments

10.1 Coursework/ Controlled Assessments

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

Subject Lead / Heads of Department will ensure all coursework/ controlled assessments are 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 Lead / Heads of Department in adherence to deadlines as set by the Examinations Officer.

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10.2 Appeals against internal assessments

The centre is obliged to publish a separate procedure on this subject, which is available as an Appendix 1 of this document.

The main points are:

- Appeals will only be entertained if they apply to the process leading to an assessment. There is no appeal against the mark or grade awarded.
- Candidates may appeal if they feel their coursework/ controlled assessment has been assessed unfairly, inconsistently or not in accordance with the specification for the qualification.
- Appeals should be made in writing to the Head of Centre (or his/her nominee) who will decide whether the process used conformed to the necessary requirements.
- The Head of Centre's findings will be notified in writing, copied to the Examinations Officer and recorded for awarding body inspection.

11. Results, enquiries, about results (EARs) and access to scripts (ATS)

11.1 Results

Candidates will receive individual results slips on results days in person at the centre or by post to their home addresses (candidates to provide sae).

Arrangements for the school to be open on results days are made by the SLT. The provision of staff on results days is the responsibility of the Head of Centre.

The centre aggregates at the end of Year 12 for AS grades, and at the end of Year 13 for A2.

11.2 EARs

EARs 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 an EAR, a candidate may apply to have an enquiry carried out. If a candidate requires this against the advice of subject staff, they will be charged.

(See section 5: Examination fees)

11.3 ATS

After the release of results, candidates may ask for the return of papers. Original scripts can be requested by GCSE candidates. A fee will be charged for this service.

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

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

Re-marks cannot be applied for once a script has been returned.

12. Certificates

Certificates are collected and signed for or posted by recorded delivery for a fee.

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

Certificates are not withheld from candidates who owe fees. The centre retains certificates for ten years.

13. Mock examinations

Mock examination seasons are scheduled by the Head of Centre and the Senior Leadership Team.

All internal examinations are held under external examination conditions.

Subject Lead / Heads of Department or their representatives are responsible for providing examination papers and setting out the examination hall. They also have to be in the examination hall at the beginning of each examination to seat the students and to answer any subject based queries.

Any misbehaviour by a student will be followed up by a member of Senior Leadership Team.

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Head of Centre

.....
Examinations Officer

.....
Date

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Examinations Policy

Appendix 1

Appeals against Internal Assessments in External Examinations and Enquiries About Results (EAR)

Internal Assessment Appeals Policy

Isebrook SEN College is committed to ensuring that:

- Whenever their staff assesses the work of candidates for external qualifications, this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the specification for the qualification concerned.
- Internal assessments are conducted by staff that have the appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills, and who have been trained in this activity.
- Assessment evidence provided by candidates has been produced and authenticated according to the requirements of the awarding body.
- The consistency of internal assessment is secured through internal moderation and standardisation.
- Staff responsible for standardisation have been properly trained.
- The school will comply fully with the Joint Council for Qualifications guidelines.

If a candidate feels that these procedures have not been carried out in relation to his or her work he or she should first discuss the matter with the Head of Department. If the problem cannot be resolved in this way, the candidate may use the formal appeals procedure described below. Appeals may be made only against the procedures that led to the assessment and not against the mark or grade.

Appeals concerning matters outside the school's control will not be accepted.

The Appeals Procedure

- The candidate, parent or guardian of the candidate must write to the Head of Centre (or his/her nominee). The application must be made as soon as the circumstances become known and always before the date of the first written paper of the examination series.
- The Head of Centre (or his/her nominee) and another experienced member of the teaching staff, not directly involved in the assessment in question, will conduct the appeal.
- The teachers who conduct the appeal will decide whether the

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procedures used for the internal assessment conformed to the requirements of the school's controlled assessment policy, awarding body and the JCQ instructions.

- The outcome of the appeal will be reported in writing to the candidate, parent or guardian of the candidate, copied to Examinations Officer and recorded for awarding body's inspection before the last written paper of the examination series. Any changes made to the assessment of the work, any changes made to improve the school's application for the procedures, and any correspondence with the awarding body will also be reported.
- The school will notify the awarding body of any outcome of the appeal that has implications for the conduct of the examination or the issue of results. A written record of the appeal will be kept and must be made available to the awarding body at their request.

Notes

1. After work has been assessed internally it is moderated by the awarding body to ensure consistency between centres. Such moderation may change the marks awarded internally but is beyond the control of the school.
2. Appeals against the marking of externally assessed examination components are dealt with after the publication of results according to procedures published by the awarding bodies.

Enquiries about results

1. EARs may be requested by centre staff or candidates if there are reasonable grounds for believing there has been an error in marking.
2. When the centre does not uphold an EAR, a candidate may apply to have an enquiry carried out. If a candidate requires this against the advice of subject staff, they will be charged.

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Controlled Assessment Policy

Appendix 2

The Equality Act (Please see separate Single Equality Duty)

Isebrook SEN College is fully accessible to any disabled candidate:

- There is a level main entry and ramps throughout the school.
- All examination rooms are on the ground level.
- There are toilets suitable for disabled people.
- The Emergency evacuation route has a level exit.
- Examinations Officer and invigilators are responsible for providing chairs for queuing disabled candidates.
- Examinations Officer is responsible for a suitable seating arrangement for disabled candidates.
- Caretakers are responsible for providing a suitable table for disabled candidates.

Examination Officer, SENCO and Subject Lead / Heads of Department will provide evidence to support an application for access arrangements and ensure that appropriate arrangements and facilities are made available which meet the requirements of any candidate with a disability. They include:

- Modified test papers (enlarged print, Braille, transcripts for hearing impaired candidates, etc).
- Up to 25% extra time.
- A reader or scribe.
- Supervised rest breaks.
- Different coloured scripts.
- Use of bilingual dictionary.
- A prompter.
- Use of a computer or other technology.
- Use of an individual room.

Any invigilator who would have to supervise a disabled candidate would be made aware of sensitive issues of learning support needs of the candidate, issues of language and communication with him/her.

Appendix 3

Public Examination Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency, the Examinations Officer or a member of the Senior Leadership Team, will return to the examination room as soon as possible and take charge of the procedures, but until they arrive, invigilators will take the following action:

1. Stop the examination and record the time.
2. If possible over the sound of the fire alarm, instruct the candidates to remain in their seats, close their examination papers and to arrange them neatly.
3. Keep the candidates in their seats under examination conditions.
4. Await further instructions from the Examinations Officer or a member of the Senior Leadership Team regarding evacuation.

It is School's policy not to evacuate the Examination Room immediately unless a fire or smoke is actually visible. In this case, take the following action:

1. Tell the candidates that they **MUST NOT** talk to each other or anyone else outside the examination room and on leaving the room they should push their chair under their desk.
2. Evacuate the examination room in an orderly fashion, one row at a time. One invigilator at the front to lead the candidates, and the rest of the invigilators to stay dotted along the line. The candidates should be kept in the seating order in the rows at least 1.5m apart.
3. Take the examination register list/ seating plan with you, but not the question or answer papers (unless there are fewer than 10 candidates in which case pack all items into the wire basket and keep it securely with you at all times).
4. Invigilators should circulate frequently among the candidates and be alert for chatting or other signs of misconduct.
5. On returning to the examination room, call the register again to ensure that all candidates return to the correct seat. Formally restart the examination, calculate the "stoppage" time and adjust the finishing time.