



Examinations Policy



Heathlands School

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Board.

The policy was agreed by the PWC Committee on 11.3.26

Next Review due March 2028

Co-Headteachers Signature:		Date: 11.3.26
Governor Signature:		Date: 11.3.26

Purpose of the policy

The centre is committed to ensuring that the examinations and assessment 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 are documented, supporting the exams contingency plan, and other relevant exams-related policies, procedures and plans are signposted to
- 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.

This policy will be communicated to all relevant centre staff. It will be stored in the main policy file on the staff drive and also updated on the school website under key documents.

Roles and responsibilities overview

(GR 2)

The heads of centre are accountable to the awarding bodies for ensuring that the centre is always compliant with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/assessments. They must have the authority to deploy the necessary resources to ensure that the centre is always compliant in meeting those published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements.

The examinations officer is the person appointed by the heads 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 headteachers (the head of centre) may not appoint themselves as the examinations officer. A head of centre and an examinations officer are two distinct and separate roles.

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

Head of centre responsibilities

(GR 1)

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

Heads of centre must ensure that relevant members of staff respond promptly to requests and/or actions raised by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service. Failure to do so could result in the centre not receiving or being able to access questions papers and other confidential assessment materials. Ultimately, awarding bodies could withdraw approval of the centre.

Heads of centre must ensure that relevant members of staff respond promptly to requests for information from awarding bodies relating to the administration and conducting of examinations/assessments.

(ICE Introduction) **It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that all staff comply with the instructions in the Instructions for conducting examinations document.** Failure to do so may constitute malpractice as defined in the JCQ document Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures, 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026.

(GR 5.1)

The head of centre must ensure:

- compliance with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to deliver the qualification(s)
- appropriate controls are in place which ensure accurate data is submitted to the awarding bodies by the required deadlines, e.g. registrations, entries, learner claims, centre-assessed marks or modified papers
- all reasonable steps are taken to respond promptly to requests for information or documentation made by an awarding body or regulatory authority

Head of centre

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

- *A guide to the special consideration process (SC)*
- *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA)*
- *AI Use in Assessments: Your role in protecting the integrity of qualifications*
- *Guidance for centres on cyber security*
- *Instructions for conducting coursework (ICC)*
- *Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE)*
- *Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (GCE and GCSE specifications) (NEA)*
- *Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (Vocational and Technical Qualifications) (NEA VTQs)*
- *Notice to Centres – Informing candidates of their centre-assessed marks*
- *Plagiarism in Assessments – Guidance for Teachers/Assessors*
- *Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures (SMPP)*
- Ensure the centre has appropriate accommodation at the registered address to support the size of the cohorts being taught, including appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements and/or practical assessments
- Where/if using a third party to deliver any part of a qualification (including the assessments or the administration) at the centre:
 - maintains oversight of, and responsibility for, the delivery and administration of the qualification in accordance with JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements
 - has in place a robust written agreement with the third party (unless exclusions apply), that includes provisions which ensure that qualifications are delivered in a way that complies with their agreement with the awarding body, to ensure there is a shared understanding of the arrangement and will manage the risk of failure by the third party to deliver the expected service
 - ensures that a copy of the written agreement is available for inspection if requested by the awarding body

- Ensures that relevant members of staff respond promptly to requests and/or actions raised by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, understanding that failure to do so could result in penalties (see **National Centre Number Register and other information requirements** section)
- Ensures that relevant members of staff respond promptly to requests for information from awarding bodies relating to the administration and conducting of examinations/assessments
- Ensures that the centre promptly reports any incidents to the relevant awarding body/bodies which might compromise any aspect of assessment delivery, such as a cyber-attack
- Ensures other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials are briefed on the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials
- Ensures members of centre staff do not forward emails and letters from awarding body or JCQ personnel without prior consent to third parties or upload such correspondence onto social media sites and applications
- Ensures members of centre staff do not advise parents/candidates to contact awarding bodies/JCQ directly nor provide them with the names, addresses and contact details (including email addresses) of examiners, moderators, external verifiers and any other awarding body examining/assessment personnel/JCQ personnel

Resilience and contingency arrangements

(GR 3.16-19)

The centre must ensure they are familiar with the regulators' guidance and/or awarding body guidance on ensuring resilience in the qualifications system. Centres should consider putting in place a process for gathering and securely retaining evidence of candidate performance in line with the published guidance.

In the unlikely event that the government determines that examinations cannot go ahead, the centre will need evidence of candidate assessment performance, such as mock examinations, to enable alternative methods of awarding grades.

Process for gathering evidence of candidate assessment performance

Formal mock examinations are held in the Autumn Term of Year 11 and scripts are scanned and kept securely in school as evidence of performance under exam conditions.

Subject Teachers with the support of their CLTs (Curriculum Lead Teachers) complete regular assessments throughout the course and record results centrally which can be used to show progress against course completion. This central record is regularly checked to ensure it shows the most up to date information about a candidate's performance.

The centre must have an up to date written contingency plan.

The contingency plan must cover all aspects of examination/assessment administration and delivery. Senior leaders must have robust contingency arrangements in place that will minimise the risk to examination/assessment administration and delivery and any adverse impact on candidates.

The plan must cover the following scenarios:

- the head of centre, relevant senior leader(s) with oversight of examination and assessment administration, SENCo (or equivalent role), examinations officer or any other key staff essential to the examination process being absent at a critical stage of the examination cycle
- the potential impact of other events such as flooding, which could lead to all or parts of the centre becoming unavailable
- potential issues with the centre's IT systems.

As part of its contingency plan the centre must identify an alternative site or alternative sites which can be used if examinations cannot be conducted at the registered address. Larger centres may require more than one potential alternative site or different sites for different year groups.

The centre must have at least one senior member of staff (senior designated contact) who is available to manage emergency requests from awarding bodies that are results related during the summer holidays. However, a number of contacts can be provided to reduce the risk of this falling on one individual throughout the summer holidays.

The centre must ensure where candidates' work is produced electronically it is backed-up and should consider the contingency of candidates' work being backed-up on two separate devices, including one off-site back-up via the Cloud. The centre must implement appropriate security arrangements which protect candidates' work in the event of IT system corruption and cyber-attacks.

- Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place (that allow the senior leadership team to act immediately in the event of an emergency or where the head of centre, the examinations officer or SENCo is absent at a critical stage of the examination cycle)

The examination contingency plan should reinforce procedures in the event of the centre being unavailable for examinations owing to an unforeseen emergency.

All relevant centre staff must be familiar with the examination contingency plan.

Consideration should be given as to how these arrangements will be communicated to candidates, parents and staff should disruption to examinations occur.

Cyber security

(GR 3.20-21)

The head of centre must ensure there are procedures in place to maintain the security of user accounts by:

- providing training for authorised staff on the importance of creating strong unique passwords and keeping all account details secret
- providing training for staff on awareness of all types of social engineering/ phishing attempts
- enabling additional security settings wherever possible
- ensuring that all members of centre staff who access awarding bodies' online systems undertake annual cyber security training

The training must include:

- the importance of creating strong, unique passwords for all accounts
- keeping all account details strictly confidential
- the critical role of Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) in protecting against unauthorised access
- how to properly set up and use MFA for both centre and awarding bodies' systems
- an awareness of all types of social engineering/phishing attempts
- the importance of staff quickly reporting any suspicious activity, events, incidents and encouraging a safe and supportive reporting culture.

Certificates of completed staff cyber training must be downloaded and held on file for inspection. The NCSC training resource provides a certificate of completion of cyber training.

- developing and maintaining a comprehensive cyber security policy for the centre. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) provides resources to assist centres in creating such policies
- implementing and enforcing robust security measures, including:

- mandatory MFA for all accounts and systems containing exam-related information, including those that interface between awarding body and centre systems, to enhance security and protect sensitive data
- regularly reviewing and updating security settings to align with current best practices
- updating any passwords that may have been exposed
- setting up secure account recovery options
- reviewing and managing connected applications
- monitoring accounts and regularly reviewing account access, including removing access when no longer required
- ensuring authorised members of staff securely access awarding bodies' online systems in line with awarding body regulations regarding cyber security and the JCQ document *Guidance for centres on cyber security*
Authorised staff will have access, where necessary, to a device which complies with awarding bodies' multi-factor authentication (MFA) requirements.
- reporting any actual or suspected compromise of an awarding body's online systems immediately to the relevant awarding body

Cyber security policy

- Heathlands Cyber Security policy is available for all staff in the staff drive/school office admin/policy file

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

Recruitment, selection, training and support

(GR 5.3)

- Retain a workforce of an appropriate size and competence, including sufficient managerial and other appropriate resources, to undertake the delivery and administration 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
The centre's contingency planning must include succession arrangements for members of staff involved in examination and assessment administration.
- Provides fully qualified teachers/assessors for the verification and marking of centre-assessed components
- Ensures that teaching staff do not use artificial intelligence (AI) as the sole means of marking candidates' work
- Enable the relevant senior leader(s), teachers, the examinations officer (EO) and the SENCo to receive appropriate training and support to facilitate the effective delivery of examinations and assessments within the centre, and ensure compliance with the published JCQ regulations
- Ensures the SENCo (or equivalent role), the centre's appointed access arrangements assessor and the examinations officer undertake regular CPD, such as attending an annual update course
- Ensures that the SENCo (or equivalent role) understands the JCQ document [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#) and is given sufficient time to manage the access arrangements process within the centre
- Ensures that the examinations officer has sufficient time to perform their role and familiarise him/herself with relevant awarding body and JCQ documentation.
- Ensures that the examinations officer is line managed and actively supported by a member of the senior leadership team who has a good working knowledge of the examination system

- Ensures that teachers understand the relevant awarding body and JCQ documentation for the qualifications they are delivering to ensure they are delivered in line with the relevant regulations

External and Internal governance arrangements

(GR 5.3)

- Has in place a written escalation process should the head of centre, or a member of the senior leadership team with oversight of examination and assessment administration, be absent. The Escalation Process is saved on the Staff drive/Admin/School office admin/policies.
- Has in place a member of the senior leadership team who has a good working knowledge of the examination system, will provide effective line management support and supervision of the examinations officer to ensure that the integrity and security of examinations and assessments is maintained throughout an examination series
- Ensure centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
- Can confirm to an awarding body the external governance arrangements so that the awarding body has confidence in the integrity of centre activities such as the delivery of qualifications and the conducting of examinations and assessments
- Make sure that a teacher, a teaching assistant, a tutor or a senior member of centre staff who teaches the subject being examined, or a Learning Support Assistant who has supported one or more candidates, is not an invigilator during an examination

Delivery of qualifications

- Deliver 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 and implementing reasonable adjustments for disabled candidates
- Enable candidates to receive sufficient and up to date practical experience, or relevant training where required by the subject

Public liability

(GR 5.3)

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

Conflicts of interest

- Manages conflicts of interest by informing the awarding bodies before the published deadline for entries for each examination series of any potential conflict of interest where:
 - any members of centre staff who are taking a qualification at this centre which includes internally-assessed components/units*
 - any members of centre staff who are teaching and preparing members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) for qualifications which include internally-assessed components/units, and

maintains internal records (that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected) of all instances where:

- exams office staff have members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate

- family (e.g. son/daughter) being entered for examinations and assessments, either at this centre or other centres
 - centre staff are taking qualifications at this centre which do not include internally-assessed components/units*
 - centre staff are taking qualifications at other centres
- Retains records of all conflicts of interest, including details of the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected (The records may be inspected by a JCQ Centre Inspector and/or awarding body staff. They might be requested in the event of concerns being reported to an awarding body. The records must be retained until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later)
- *Notes that entering members of centre staff for qualifications at their own centre must be as a last resort in cases where the member of centre staff is unable to find another centre, and ensures:
 - proper protocols are in place to prevent the member of centre staff having access to examination materials prior to the examination and that other centre staff are briefed on maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the examination materials
 - during the examination series the member of centre staff is treated in the same way as any other candidate entered for that examination, does not have access to examination materials and does not receive any preferential treatment

Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments

([GR 5.3](#))

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

Security of assessment materials

([GR 5.3](#))

- Takes all reasonable steps to maintain the integrity of the examinations/assessments, including the security of all assessment materials, by ensuring:
 - that assessment materials supplied to the centre by the awarding body, including pre-release materials and set assignments, and information about their contents are only shared with appropriate centre staff and candidates and are not shared outside the centre
 - reporting immediately to the awarding body/bodies any potential or actual breach of examination or assessment materials
- Makes arrangements to:
 - receive, check and store question papers and examination material safely and securely at all times and for as long as required in accordance with the current JCQ document *Instructions for conducting examinations*

- access, download, print (where appropriate) and store electronic assessment materials safely and securely at all times in accordance with section 4 of the current JCQ document *Instructions for conducting examinations*
- issue material received from the awarding bodies to staff and candidates, and notify them of any advice and instructions relevant to the examinations and assessments
- Provides candidates access to relevant pre-release materials on, or as soon as possible after, the date specified by the awarding bodies

National Centre Number Register and other information requirements

(GR 5.3)

- Provides contact details as follows:
 - a physical address to which all examination and assessment materials will be despatched – this must be the registered address of the centre
 - a landline telephone number – this must be the number of the main office/ switchboard of the centre
 - a contact email address for communications – this must be the email address of the person or team responsible for the administration of examinations (Personal email addresses such as ‘Yahoo’, ‘Hotmail’ and ‘Gmail’ are not acceptable)
 - Note: Except for WJEC, if this is a shared email account it must not be used to access awarding body secure websites
 - the name of the head of centre and their email address
 - senior designated contact details (this might include a personal mobile number and/or email address) (These must be the contact details of someone who can be reached in an emergency if the centre is closed over the summer and who can mobilise resources to respond to the issue)
- Completes the National Centre Number Register annual update by the end of October every year even if there are no changes to centre details
 - informs the National Centre Number Register Team immediately (email address – ncn@ocr.org.uk) if any changes occur after the National Centre Number Register annual update has taken place (This must be on centre headed stationery which can be sent as an email attachment including the signature of the head of centre)
 - informs the National Centre Number Register Team (email address – ncn@ocr.org.uk) of any changes to relevant contact details no later than 6 weeks prior to moving to a new address or re-locating of the secure storage facility (This must be on centre headed stationery which can be sent as an email attachment)
 - informs the National Centre Number Register Team immediately of any other changes in circumstances that could affect the centre’s status
 - completes the National Centre Number Register Head of Centre Declaration by the end of October every year confirming they are aware of and adhering to the latest versions of the JCQ regulations
 - responds to any other reasonable requests made by the National Centre Number Register Team
- (GR 1.9) Understands that the responsibility for completing the Head of Centre declaration survey cannot be delegated to a member of the senior leadership team or the examinations officer, and acknowledges that failure to respond to the NCNR annual update, the head of centre declaration and/or requests or actions raised by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, will result in:
 - the centre status being suspended
 - the centre not being able to submit examination entries

- the centre not receiving or being able to access question papers and ultimately, awarding bodies could withdraw their approval of the centre.

Centre inspections

(GR 5.3)

- Co-operates with the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, an awarding body or a regulatory authority when subject to an inspection, an investigation an unannounced visit or any requests for information within the stipulated timeframe
- 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 formal identity document and **must** be accompanied throughout their tour of the premises, including inspection of the centre's secure storage facility

Policies available for inspection

(GR 5.3)

Has in place the following written policies for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually by a member of the senior leadership team and communicated within the centre:

- These are available for all staff in the staff drive/school office admin/policy file
 - Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy
 - Complaints Policy
 - Conflicts of Interest Policy
 - Contingency Plan
 - Data Protection Policy
 - Equalities Policy
 - Internal Appeals Procedure
 - Malpractice Policy
 - Non-examination Assessment Policy
 - Whistleblowing Policy
 - Word Processor Policy
 - Exams Archiving Procedure (held by the EO)
 - Exams Emergency Evacuation Procedure (held by the EO)

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

(GR 5.4)

The head of centre/senior leadership team will:

- appoint a SENCo, or an equivalent member of staff, to coordinate the access arrangements process within the centre and determine appropriate arrangements for candidates with learning difficulties and disabilities, candidates for whom English is an additional language and those with a temporary illness or injury
- ensure that learners have the correct information and advice on their selected qualification(s) in an accessible format and that the qualification(s) meet their needs (The recruitment process must include the centre assessing each potential learner and making justifiable and professional judgements about the learner's potential to complete the examinations/assessments successfully and achieve the qualification(s). The centre's assessment must identify, where appropriate, the support that will be made available to the learner to facilitate access to examinations/assessments)
- recognise its duties towards disabled candidates, including private candidates, ensuring compliance with all aspects of the Equality Act 2010†, particularly Section 20 (7) (This

must include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, to submit applications for reasonable adjustments through the access arrangements process and to make reasonable adjustments to the services the centre provides to disabled candidates. Where the centre is under a duty to make a reasonable adjustment, the centre must not charge a disabled candidate any additional fee in relation to the adjustment or aid)

†or any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect

- ensure that the SENCo undertakes the necessary and appropriate steps to gather a picture of need and demonstrate normal way of working for a private candidate, such as a distance learner or a home educated student (The centre, where required, must lead on the assessment process. The candidate must be assessed by the centre's appointed assessor. In some instances, depending on their needs, the candidate may have to be assessed away from the centre, for example at home. The centre must comply with the obligation to identify the need for, request and implement access arrangements)
- ensure that where a candidate with a learning difficulty requires an assessment of their needs, they are assessed by an appropriately qualified assessor as appointed by the head of centre (Evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) must be obtained before they assess candidates and must be held on file for inspection)
- have a written process in place to check the qualification(s) of their assessor(s) and that the correct procedures are followed as in Chapter 7 of the JCQ document *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*
- assist the awarding bodies in the discharge of their duty to make reasonable adjustments by requesting access arrangements, where required, and fully support the SENCo in effectively implementing those arrangements once approved

Malpractice

(GR 5.11)

The centre will:

- take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after assessments have taken place
- inform the awarding immediately of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration involving a candidate or a member of staff, by completing the appropriate documentation
- as required by an awarding body, ensures evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) is gathered in accordance with the current JCQ document *Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures* and provides such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require
- (GR 6.2) Ensures any person involved in administering, teaching or completing examinations/assessments is advised that where malpractice is suspected, or alleged, personal data about them will be provided to the awarding body (or bodies) whose examinations/assessments are involved. Personal data about them may also be shared with other awarding bodies, the qualifications regulator or professional bodies in accordance with the JCQ document *Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures*

Personal data

(GR 6.6, 6.8)

- It is the responsibility of centres to inform candidates of the processing that the centre undertakes. For example, that the centre will provide relevant personal data including name, date of birth, gender to the awarding bodies for the purpose of examining and awarding qualifications.

- Materials which are submitted by candidates for assessment may include any form of written work, audio and visual materials, computer programs and data (“Student Materials”). Awarding bodies may use the Student Materials to evaluate candidates’ performance in the relevant assessment. They may also use the Student Materials for other purposes as outlined in their privacy policies and in accordance with their terms. Candidates should be directed to the relevant awarding body’s privacy notice if they require further information about how their Student Materials may be used by the awarding body.
- Where a centre or third party is in possession of any Student Materials for the purposes of candidate assessment, the Student Materials will be held on behalf of the awarding body.

AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications

- The Head of Centre and Assistant Headteacher (Upper School) are acquainted with the JCQ document ‘AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications’ and will ensure that the guidance in this document is used to provide necessary information to teachers/assessors involved in delivering JCQ qualifications to manage use of AI in assessments.

In relation to the above, the head of centre will make sure arrangements to:

- Ensure appropriate procedures are in place to ensure that confidential examination materials are only handed over to authorised members of centre staff.
- Explain the importance of students submitting their own independent work for assessments and stress to them and to their parents/carers the risks of malpractice.
- Provide clear guidance on how students should reference appropriately (including websites) and how students should acknowledge any use of AI to avoid misuse.
- Ensure that teachers and assessors are familiar with AI tools, their risks and AI detection tools.
- Ensure that each student is issued with a copy of, and understands, the appropriate JCQ Information for Candidates (www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents).
- Reinforce to students the significance of their (electronic) declaration where they confirm the work they’re submitting is their own, the consequences of a false declaration, and that they have understood and followed the requirements for the subject; and remind students that awarding organisation staff, examiners and moderators have established procedures for reporting and investigating malpractice. <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice>

Exams Officer (EO)

- Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - A guide to the special consideration process
 - General Regulations for Approved Centres
 - Instructions for conducting examinations
 - Post-Results Services (PRS)
 - Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures
- Completes/submits the National Centre Number Register annual update (administered on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies by Cambridge OCR <https://ocr.org.uk/administration/ncn-annual-update/>) by the end of October every year even if there are no changes to centre details, to confirm the centre’s contact details or

informs of any changes (and follows the process (in GR 5.3) if any changes occur after the annual update has taken place)

- 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
- Works with the Assistant Headteacher to ensure that a trained team of internal/external invigilators is available.
- Works with the SENCo to ensure invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates and those acting as a facilitator supporting access arrangement candidates fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room
- Supports the heads of centre in ensuring that awarding bodies are informed (where required) of any Conflict of Interest declared by members of centre staff and in maintaining internal records that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected before the published deadline for entries
- Briefs other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials on the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials.

Assistant Headteacher

- Is familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to current updated JCQ publications including:
 - *A guide to the special consideration process*
 - *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*
 - *AI Use in Assessments: Your role in protecting the integrity of qualifications*
 - *Guidance for centres on cyber security*
 - *Instructions for conducting coursework*
 - *Instructions for conducting examinations*
 - *Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (GCE and GCSE specifications)*
 - *Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (Vocational and Technical Qualifications)*
 - *Notice to Centres – Informing candidates of their centre-assessed marks*
 - *Plagiarism in Assessments – Guidance for Teachers/Assessors*
 - *Post-Results Services*
 - *Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures*
- Ensure teaching staff undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process (exam cycle) and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and SENCo
- Ensure teaching staff keep themselves updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Ensure teaching staff attend relevant awarding body training and update events

Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo)

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to current 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 ensures the correct procedures are followed
- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification ([GR 5.4](#))

Teaching staff

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

Invigilators

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

Reception staff

- Support the EO in the receipt and dispatch of confidential 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 can be grouped into the following stages:

- planning
- entries
- pre-exams
- exam time
- results and post-results

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

Planning: roles and responsibilities

Secure materials

Head of centre

([GR](#) 3.6)

- Ensures the centre has a secure storage facility in a room solely assigned to examinations

([ICE](#) 3.1)

The secure room and the secure storage facility

Question papers and pre-release materials issued by the awarding bodies must always be stored at the centre's registered address in a secure room with a secure storage facility, e.g. safe or security cabinet.

The secure room

The secure room must only be used for the purpose of administering secure examination materials.

Access to the secure room **must** be restricted to between two and six key holders, one of whom **must** be the exams officer. The two to six key holders **must** be permanent members of staff or members of staff who have a formal contract of employment and are subject to standard HR policies and procedures...

The secure room **must** be accessible throughout an examination series for the storage of question papers and be available for inspection.

The secure storage facility

Access to the secure storage facility **must** be restricted to between two and six key holders, one of whom **must** be the exams officer.

The two to six key holders **must** either be part of the exams team or the senior leadership team. A key holder from the exams team **must** be a permanent member of staff or a member of staff who has a formal contract of employment and is subject to standard HR policies and procedures...

When the secure storage facility is being accessed for the storage and preparation of secure assessment materials the door to the secure room **must** be closed.

Information sharing

Head of Centre

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

Exams Officer

- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ publications and awarding body documentation relating to the exams process that have 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 preparation for and conduct of (insert the titles these internal exams are referred to in the centre)
- 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 containing all of the required documentation).

Assistant Headteacher

- Responds (or ensure teaching staff respond) to requests from the EO on information gathering
- Meet the internal deadline for the return of information
- Inform 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
- Note the internal deadlines in the annual exams plan and directs teaching staff to meet these

Access arrangements

Heads of Centre

- Ensures the centre has documented processes in place relating to 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 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
- 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 thoroughly 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
- Liaises with the relevant member of the senior leadership team on the centre's policy on the use of word processors in examinations.
- 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

Assistant Headteacher, Teaching Staff

- Support the SENCo in determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements
- Provides an annually reviewed word processor policy, specific to the centre, which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations
- Informs relevant candidates that an application for access arrangements will be processed using *Access Arrangements Online (AAO)*, complying with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018

Internal assessment and endorsements

Heads of Centre

Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments and portfolios of evidence

(GR 5.7)

- Ensures that where candidates are taking non-examination assessments, teaching staff check that the tasks and approach being taken are appropriate and in line with ethical standards and the centre's safeguarding responsibilities
- Ensures only current assessment materials/tasks are used to assess candidates' knowledge and skills (in cases where the awarding body provides such material)
- Before submitting marks to the awarding body ensures candidates are informed of their centre-assessed marks and allows a candidate to request a review of the centre's marking
- Ensures that all associated administrative tasks are completed in an accurate and timely manner, e.g. marks are correctly calculated, recorded and submitted by the published date (It is the responsibility of the centre to carefully check the marks it is submitting to an awarding body)

- Ensures submission of centre-assessed marks and moderation samples, if required by the awarding body, by the published date (It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that moderators receive the correct samples of work to review)
- Ensures a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions is in place and ensures that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates
- Ensures a written policy regarding the management of non-examination assessments, including controlled assessments and coursework, which includes details on how candidates' work will be authenticated, is in place
- Ensures that where candidates' work is produced electronically it is backed-up and considers the contingency of candidates' work being backed-up on two separate devices, including one off-site back-up via the Cloud (Implementing appropriate security arrangements which protect candidates' work in the event of IT system corruption and cyber-attacks)

Assistant Headteacher

- 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 GCE & GCSE specifications and Vocational and Technical Qualifications (which include components of non-examination assessment) follow JCQ [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#) and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensure teaching staff delivering qualifications which include (wholly or in part) units of coursework follow JCQ [Instructions for conducting coursework](#) and the specification provided by the awarding body
- For 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.

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

Heads of Centre

- Ensure relevant support is provided to the **Assistant Headteacher** in recruiting, training and deploying a team of invigilators
- Ensure, if contracting supply staff to act as invigilators, that such persons are competent and fully trained, understanding what is and what is not permissible (and not taking on its own an assurance from a recruitment agency, that this is the case)
- Determine 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
- Ensures that, wherever possible the following individuals are not assigned as invigilators during an examination: a teacher, a teaching assistant, a tutor or a senior member of centre staff who teaches the subject being examined or a learning support assistant who has supported one or more candidates

Exams Officer

- Works with the **Assistant Headteacher** to ensure that sufficient invigilators are available where required to effectively cover all exam periods/series' throughout the academic year
- Collects information on new recruits to identify if they have invigilated previously and if any current maladministration/malpractice sanctions are applied to them
- Provides thorough training for new invigilators on the current instructions for conducting examinations and an update for the existing invigilation 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 arrangement candidates in their exam room and made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded (ensuring these candidates are identified on the seating plan) and confirms invigilators understand what is and what is not permissible
- Collects evaluation of training to inform future events

Entries: roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- Ensures the centre's obligations as detailed in the regulations are met

Estimated entries

Exams Officer

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

Curriculum Lead Teachers

- Provide entry information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- Inform the EO immediately of any subsequent changes to entry information

Final entries

Head of centre

- Ensures appropriate controls are in place which allow accurate data to be submitted to the awarding bodies, e.g. registrations, entries, learner claims

Exams Officer

- Requests final entry/registration information from Curriculum Lead Teachers in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met
- Informs the Assistant Headteacher of subsequent deadlines for making changes to final entry information without charge
- Submits registrations, examination entries and certification claims by the deadline(s) and complies with the requirements of the specification including any terminal rules which need to be met at the point of certification
- Confirms with the Assistant Headteacher that 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 the terms and conditions for the registration, entry and timely withdrawal of candidates for their examinations and assessments, and observes any regulatory requirements for the qualification

Curriculum Lead Teachers

- Provide information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- Inform 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
- Check final entry submission information provided by the EO and confirms information is correct

Entry fees

- Entry fees are charged to the examinations budget. Entry fees are managed effectively by minimising late entry fees and withdrawals of candidates before the appropriate deadline.

Late entries

Exams Officer

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

Curriculum Lead Teachers

- Minimise the risk of late entries by
 - following procedures identified by the EO in relation to making final entries on time

- meeting internal deadlines identified by the EO for making final entries

Candidate statements of entry

Exams Officer

- Provides candidates with statements of entry for checking

Teaching Staff

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

Candidates

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

Pre-exams: roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- Ensures the centre's obligations as detailed in the regulations are met

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

SENCo

- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access to exams/assessments for with learning difficulties or disabilities, those for whom English is an additional language and those with a temporary illness or injury–
- Ensures a candidate is involved in any decisions about arrangements, adjustments and /or adaptations that may be put in place for them
- Ensures exam information (JCQ information for candidates information, individual exam timetable etc.) is adapted where this may be required for a 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)
- Ensures the person appointed to facilitate an access arrangement must not normally be the candidate's own subject teacher, Learning Support Assistant or teaching assistant (Where the candidate's own subject teacher, Learning Support Assistant or teaching assistant is used, a separate invigilator must always be present)
- 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 (such as a distance learners or a 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 sessions awarding bodies may identify in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams

- Prior to exams issues relevant JCQ information for candidates' documents (coursework, non-examination assessments, on-screen tests, social media and written examinations) and awarding body privacy notices
- Where relevant, issues relevant awarding body information to candidates
- Issues centre exam information to candidates including information on:
 - exam timetable clashes
 - arriving late for an exam
 - absence or illness during exams
 - what equipment is/is not provided by the centre
 - food and drink in exam rooms
 - unauthorised items in exam rooms
 - when and how results will be issued and the staff that will be available
 - post-results services information and how the centre will deal with requests from candidates
 - when and how certificates will be issued
 - Liaises with the Assistant Headteacher to ensure that the School's Access to Scripts, Reviews of Results and Appeals Procedures are understood by candidates.

Dispatch of exam scripts

Exams Officer

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

Estimated grades

Assistant Headteacher

- Ensure teaching staff provide estimated grade information to be included in the annual review documents ready for December meetings.

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

Heads of centre

- Ensure procedures are in place for candidates to appeal internal assessment decisions and make requests for reviews of marking

SENCo/Assistant Headteacher/EO

- Liaise with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments and practical endorsements

Teaching Staff

- Support the SENCo/Assistant Head-teacher/EO 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

Assistant Headteacher

- 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 arrangements

Exams Officer

- Arranges suitable training for invigilators annually.
- Works with the Assistant Headteacher to deploy invigilators effectively to exam rooms throughout an exam series (including the provision of a roving invigilator where a candidate and invigilator (acting as a practical assistant, reader or scribe) are accommodated on a one-to-one basis to enter the room at regular intervals in order to observe the conducting of the exam, ensuring all relevant rules and ratios are being adhered to and supporting the practical assistant/prompter/reader and/or scribe in maintaining the integrity of the exam)
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates

SENCo

- Liaises with the EO regarding facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates

Invigilators

- Provide information as requested on their availability to invigilate throughout an exam series

JCQ Centre Inspections

Exams Officer

- Will accompany the Inspector throughout a visit

SENCo or EO

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

Seating and identifying candidates in exam rooms

Exams Officer

- Ensures a procedure is in place to verify candidate identity – as a small school all students are known and therefore no formal identification process is necessary.
- Ensures invigilators are aware of the procedure
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms according to JCQ and awarding body requirements (and ensures candidates with access arrangements are identified on the seating plan and invigilators are informed of those candidates with access arrangements and made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded)

Invigilators

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

Security of exam materials

Exams Officer

- Confirms appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential exam materials are only handed over to those authorised members of staff
- Ensures access to the secure room is restricted and staff approved by the head of centre are accompanied by a keyholder at all times
- Has a process in place to demonstrate the receipt, secure movement and secure storage of confidential exam materials within the centre
- Ensures a log is kept at the initial point of delivery recording confidential materials received and signed for by 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
- Carefully checks question paper packets when they are removed from the dispatch packaging and keeps a log of the check
- Ensures the secure storage facility contains only current and live confidential material (ensuring that past examination question papers, internal tests and mocks are not kept in the centre's secure storage facility)
- Ensures that examination stationery, e.g. answer booklets and formula booklets are stored in the secure room (attempting to store this material in the secure storage facility, when sufficient space allows)
- Ensures the integrity and security of any electronic question paper is maintained during the downloading, printing and collating process (ensuring printing is carried out in a secure environment to prevent unauthorised personnel accessing live assessment materials and ensuring only authorised members of centre staff have access to electronic question papers)

- A minimum of two and a maximum of six members of centre staff should be authorised to handle secure electronic materials, one of whom must be the exams officer*. Other members of centre staff may assist with printing and collation provided they are under supervision.
*For AQA examinations, one member of centre staff can be authorised to handle secure electronic material.
- Ensures that the question paper is printed correctly, is of good quality and is collated in the right order

Reception staff

- Follow 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 centre's policy)
- Identifies exam rooms and specialist equipment requirements
- Works with the Assistant Headteacher to allocate invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to an exam timetable clash) according to required ratios
- Liaises with site staff to ensure exam rooms are set up according to JCQ and awarding body requirements
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates

SENCo

- Liaises with the EO regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with other relevant centre staff to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams

Site staff

- Liaise with the EO to ensure exam rooms are set up according to JCQ and awarding body requirements

Alternative site arrangements

Exams Officer

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

Centre consortium arrangements

Exams Officer

- Processes applications for Centre Consortium arrangements through CAP to the awarding body deadline (or through the awarding body where a qualification may sit outside the scope of CAP)

Assistant Headteacher

- Inform the EO of any joint teaching arrangements in place and where the centre is acting as the consortium co-ordinator

Transferred candidate arrangements

Exams Officer

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

Internal exams

Exams Officer

- Prepares for the conduct of internal exams under external conditions
- Provides a centre exam timetable of subjects and rooms if required
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms if required
- Requests internal exam papers from teaching staff if required
- Liaises with the Assistant Headteacher to arrange invigilation if required

SENCo

- Liaises with teaching staff to make appropriate arrangements for access arrangement candidates

Teaching Staff

- Provide exam papers and materials to the EO
- Support the SENCo in making appropriate arrangements for access arrangement candidates

Exam time: roles and responsibilities

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 by applying for approval through AAO where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

Candidate absence

- As soon as a candidate absence is suspected, this is followed up by the exams officer by telephoning or texting the candidate's parent/guardian. Follow up information is immediately passed onto the Assistant Headteacher and the invigilator in the exam.

Invigilators

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

Candidate late arrival

Exams Officer

- Ensures that candidates who arrive very late for an exam are reported to the awarding body by submitting a report on candidate admitted very late to examination room through CAP to timescale
- Warns candidates that their script may not be accepted by the awarding body

Invigilators

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

Conducting exams

Heads of Centre

- Ensure 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 exam question paper packets
- Collates attendance registers and examiner details in date order
- Regularly checks mail or email inbox for updates from awarding bodies
- In order to avoid potential breaches of security, ensures care is taken to ensure the correct question paper packets are opened by ensuring a member of centre staff, additional to the person removing the papers from secure storage, e.g. an invigilator, checks the day, date, time, subject, unit/component and tier of entry, if appropriate, immediately before a question paper packet is opened
- Ensures this second pair of eyes check is recorded

- Where allowed by the awarding body, only releases exam papers and materials to teaching departments for teaching and learning purposes after the published finishing time of the exam, or until any timetable clash candidates have completed the exam

Exam rooms

Heads of Centre

- Ensure that internal tests, mock exams, revision or coaching sessions are not conducted in a room 'designated' as an exam room
- Ensures that when a room is 'designated' as an exam room it is not used for any purpose other than conducting external exams
- Ensures only approved centre staff (who have not taught the subject being examined) are present in exam rooms to perform permitted tasks
- Ensures the centre'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

Exams Officer

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

Assistant Headteacher

- 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.
- The Emergency Evacuation Policy is saved in the Staff drive/admin/school office admin/policies

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 by the centre in training/update and briefing sessions
- Heathlands School is a small school and all of the students are well known to teaching staff. The School does not accept private candidates. In addition, the School uses teaching assistants as invigilators and does not employ external invigilators.
- As the students are well known to staff, the invigilator will be able to verify the student's identity at the start of the exam. The invigilator will seat the students according to the seating plan and complete the attendance register.
- In the case of a query/issue in relation to a student's identity, the invigilator will alert the Exams officer and contact the Assistant Headteacher for assistance.

Candidates

- Are required to follow the instructions given to them in exam rooms by authorised centre staff and invigilators
- Are required to remain in the exam room for the full duration of the exam

Irregularities

Heads of Centre

- Ensure (as required by an awarding body) any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration before, during or after examinations/assessments (by centre staff, candidates, invigilators) are investigated and reported to the awarding body **immediately**, by completing the appropriate documentation.
- The Managing Behaviour Policy is saved in the Staff drive/admin/school office admin/policies

Assistant Headteacher

- 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)

Malpractice

See *Irregularities* above.

Special consideration

Assistant Headteacher

- Provides signed evidence when obtained from candidates to support eligible applications for special consideration

Exams Officer

- Processes eligible applications for special consideration to awarding bodies
- Gathers evidence which may need to be provided by other staff in centre or candidates
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to the external deadline
- The Special Consideration Policy is saved in the Staff drive/admin/school office admin/policies.

Unauthorised items

- Candidates are made aware that no unauthorised items can be taken in the exam room. Before entering the exam room all candidates are asked to check for any unauthorised items and if these are found they are to be left with their belongings outside the exams room.

Invigilators

- Are informed of the arrangements through training

Internal exams

Exams Officer

- Briefs invigilators on conducting internal exams
- Keeps candidate scripts in the exam cupboard after for marking if required

Invigilators

- Conduct internal exams as briefed by the EO

Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities

Internal assessment

Assistant Headteacher

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

Managing results day

Assistant Headteacher

- Identifies centre staff who will be involved in the main summer results day 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
- Works with the EO to ensure procedures for managing the main summer results day is in place

Site Staff

- Ensure the centre is open and accessible to centre staff as required for the collation of results

Accessing results

Heads of Centre

- Ensure results are kept entirely confidential and restricted to key members of staff until the official dates and times of release of results to candidates
- Understand 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

Heads of Centre

- Ensure an **internal appeals procedure** is available where candidates disagree with any centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal
- Ensure that senior members of centre staff are available immediately after the publication of results
- Understand 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 as required on the services provided by awarding bodies and the fees charged
- Publishes internal deadlines for requesting the services to ensure the external deadlines can be effectively met
- Provides a process to record requests for services and to collect candidate informed consent (**after** the publication of results) and fees where relevant
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline for the particular service
- Tracks requests to conclusion and informs candidates and relevant centre staff of outcomes
- Updates centre results information, where applicable

Teaching Staff

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

Analysis of results by Assistant Headteacher

- Provides analysis of results to appropriate centre staff where required
- Provides results information to external organisations where required
- Undertakes the DfE School and College Checking Exercises (where applicable to the centre) <https://tableschecking.education.gov.uk>

Certificates

- Certificates are provided to centres by awarding bodies after results have been confirmed. The EO will check that the certificates are correct and post by recorded delivery to candidates.
- Unclaimed or uncollected certificates will be kept for one year after the results are issued and then destroyed in a confidential manner.

Exams 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 if required.
- Collects and evaluates feedback from staff, candidates and invigilators to inform an exams review

Assistant Headteacher

- Works 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
- Adheres to the School's Record Management Policy re exam information held, the retention period and method of disposal.