



Watford Grammar School for Boys
Examinations Policy
2018/2019

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Purpose of the policy

The centre is committed to ensuring that the exams management and administration process is run effectively and efficiently. This exam policy will ensure that:

- all aspects of the centre exam process is documented and other relevant exams-related policies, procedures and plans are signposted
- the workforce is well informed and supported
- all centre staff involved in the exams process clearly understand their roles and responsibilities
- all exams and assessments are conducted in accordance with JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions, thus ensuring that

“... the integrity and security of the examination/assessment system is maintained at all times and is not brought into disrepute” [JCQ [General regulations for approved centres](#)1]

- 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 via email

Roles and responsibilities overview

Head of centre

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - [General regulations for approved centres](#)(GR)
 - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#)(ICE)
 - [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#)(AA)
 - [Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments](#)(SMEA)
 - [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#) (NEA)
- Ensures the National Centre Number Register Annual Update is responded to
- Ensures the exams officer (EO) attends appropriate training events offered by awarding bodies, MIS providers and other external providers to enable the exam process to be effectively managed and administered
- Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
- Ensures security within the examination process is managed according to JCQ and awarding body regulations
- Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place The Exams Contingency Plan can be found on the T drive
- Ensures required internal appeals procedures are in place. The Internal Appeals Procedure can be found on the T drive and the School VLE
- Ensures a disability policy showing the centre’s compliance with relevant legislation is in place. The disability policy relating to exams can be found on the T drive
- Ensures the centre has documented processes in place relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments.
- Ensures invigilators have a current DBS in place.

Exams officer

- Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - [General regulations for approved centres](#)
 - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#)
 - [Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments](#)
 - [Post-results services](#) (PRS)

- Is familiar with the contents of annually updated information from awarding bodies on administrative procedures, key tasks, key dates and deadlines
- Ensures key tasks are undertaken and key dates and deadlines met
- Recruits, trains and deploys a team of external invigilators; appoints lead invigilators as required

Senior leaders (SLT)

- Are familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - [General regulations for approved centres](#)
 - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#)
 - [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#)
 - [Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments](#)
 - [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#)

Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo)

- Is familiar with the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publication [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#)
- Leads on the access arrangements and reasonable adjustments process (referred to in this policy as ‘access arrangements’)
- Works with the qualified access arrangements assessor on all matters relating to assessing candidates and the administration of the assessment process
- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor’s qualification

Head of department (HoD)

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

Teaching staff

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

Invigilators

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

Reception staff

- Support the EO in dealing with exam-related deliveries and dispatches with due regard to the security of confidential materials

Site staff

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

The exam cycle

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

- planning
- entries
- pre-exams

- exam time
- results and post-results

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

Planning: roles and responsibilities

Information sharing and gathering

Exams officer

- Distributes relevant JCQ and awarding body publications
- As the centre administrator, approves relevant access rights for centre staff to access awarding body secure extranet sites
- 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
- 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.

Head of department

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

Access arrangements

SENCo

- Assesses candidates (or works with the appointed access arrangements assessor) 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
- Gathers signed data protection notices from candidates where required
- Applies for approval through *Access arrangements online* (AAO), where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Keeps relevant paperwork and evidence on file for JCQ inspection purposes
- Employs good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010
- Liaises with the EO regarding exam time arrangements for access arrangement candidates
- Ensures staff appointed to facilitate access arrangements for candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular arrangement(s)
- Provides and annually reviews a centre policy on the use of word processors in exams and assessments. The word processor policy can be found on the T drive and the School VLE
- 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

Senior Leaders, Head of department, Teaching staff

- Support the SENCo in identifying and implementing appropriate access arrangements

Internal assessment

Head of centre

- Ensures an internal appeals procedure is in place for a candidate (or parent/carer) to appeal against an internal assessment decision
- Ensures a non-examination assessment policy is in place for GCE and GCSE qualifications.

- Ensures irregularities are investigated and any cases of suspected malpractice reported to the awarding body, as required

Senior leaders

- Ensure teaching staff have the necessary and appropriate knowledge, understanding, skills, and training to set tasks, conduct task taking, and to assess, mark and authenticate candidates' work
- Ensure appropriate internal moderation, standardisation and verification processes are in place

Head of department

- Ensures teaching staff delivering Project qualifications follow JCQ [Instructions for conducting coursework](#) and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensures teaching staff delivering GCE & GCSE specifications follow JCQ [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#) and the specification provided by 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

Exams officer

- Identifies relevant key dates and administrative processes that need to be followed in relation to internal assessment
- Ensures candidates are in receipt of JCQ notices

All staff who are involved in question setting for future exams

The sharing of confidential material relating to any current or future (“live”) public examination series by a member of staff is likely to constitute gross misconduct. It is prohibited by the Conflict of Interests policies of the various exam boards. It is incumbent on any member of staff privy to confidential information about public examinations to ensure that they maintain a position of complete neutrality and do not either advantage or disadvantage pupils in the school. Staff must ensure the examination syllabus (specification) is covered in full but must also ensure that specific material used in upcoming public examinations is not used in their teaching at the centre or to guide departmental schemes of work.

When a member of staff knows in advance the content (in whole or in part) of any public examination which is to be sat by any pupil, that staff member must not:

- set any internal exam or revision material for that public examination;
- save any confidential public examination material on any computer that the staff member uses for teaching or for any other school/college activity without ensuring that that material is stored in a password protected area;
- bring into public areas within the school/college public examination related paper-work, products or materials on which the staff member has worked, or use departmental printers or photocopiers for such materials;
- use, in the creation of live public examination papers, specific content which the staff member or a member of his department has created for pupils in current or previous years, or which might be used by colleagues;
- adapt his or her teaching to fit the questions that the staff member knows are coming up in a “live” public examination (e.g. by spending extra time on a topic, or by covering a topic with a particular slant). The member of staff must adhere to agreed departmental schemes of work;
- engage in “question spotting” or make any predictions about the contents of the public examination to any pupil or colleague;
- divulge to pupils his or her role with the examination board

Invigilation

Exams officer

- Provides an annual training event for new invigilators and an update event for invigilators in the conduct of exams
- Ensures invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates understand their role and the rules and regulations of the access arrangement(s)
- Ensures invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues
- Collects evaluation of training to inform future events

Entries: roles and responsibilities

Estimated entries

Exams officer

- Requests estimated or early entry information, where this may be required by awarding bodies, from HoDs in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met. Estimated entries are requested by email in September each year.
- Submit estimated entries to awarding bodies by the deadlines given

Head of department

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

Final entries

Exams officer

- Requests final entry information from HoDs in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met
- Informs HoDs of subsequent deadlines for making changes to final entry information without charge
- Confirms with HoDs final entry information that has been submitted to awarding bodies
- Ensures as far as possible that entry processes minimise the risk of entries or registrations being missed reducing the potential for late or other penalty fees being charged by awarding bodies
- Final entry lists are required by mid-January each year.

Head of department

- Provides information requested by the internal deadline to the EO
- Informs the EO immediately, or at the very least prior to the deadlines, of any subsequent changes to final entry information, which includes
 - changes to candidate personal details
 - amendments to existing entries
 - withdrawals of existing entries
- Checks final entry submission information provided by the EO and confirms information is correct

Entry fees

- GCSE initial registration and entry exam fees are paid by the centre.
- A Level initial registration and entry exam fees are paid by the centre.
- Late entry or amendment fees which are the fault of the department will be charged to the department.
- Late entry or amendment fees which are the fault of the candidate will be charged to the candidate.

Exams officer

- Has clear entry procedures in place to minimise the risk of late entries
- Charges any late or other penalty fees to departmental budgets

Head of department

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

Re-sit entries

Re-sit fees for first and any subsequent retakes are paid by the candidates. Re-sit fees are determined by the exams officer.

Private candidates

The centre only accepts ex-students and groups affiliated with the School (e.g. Chinese School held on a Sunday) as private candidates. Photographic identification must be provided by the candidate.

Candidate statements of entry

Exams officer

- Provides candidates with statements of entry for checking

Teaching staff

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

Candidates

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

Pre-exams: roles and responsibilities

Access arrangements

SENCo

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

Briefing candidates

Exams officer

- Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates
- Issues relevant JCQ information to candidates
- Where relevant, issues relevant awarding body information to candidates
- Issues centre exam information to candidates including information on:
 - exam clashes
 - arriving late for an exam
 - absence or illness during exams
 - what equipment is required for the exams
 - food and drink in exam rooms
 - the special consideration process
 - when and how results will be issued and the staff that will be available
 - the post-results services and how the centre deals with requests from candidates
 - when and how certificates will be issued

Dispatch of exam scripts

Exams officer

- Identifies and confirms arrangements for the dispatch of candidate exam scripts

Internal assessment

Head of centre

- Ensures procedures are in place for candidates to appeal an internal assessment decision or request a review of the centre's marking of an assessment

SENCo

- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments

Teaching staff

- Support the SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments
- Ensure candidates are informed of internal assessment decisions prior to marks being submitted to awarding bodies

Head of department

- Ensures teaching staff provide marks for internally assessed components of qualifications to the EO by the internal deadline
- Ensures teaching staff authenticate candidates' work to the awarding body requirements
- Ensures marks are given to the candidates with enough time for the candidate to request a review of the marking
- Submit samples to moderators to meet the external deadline
- Keeps a record to track what has been sent
- Logs moderated work returned to the centre

Exams officer

- Submit marks to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline
- Ensures teaching staff are aware of the requirements in terms of retention and subsequent disposal of candidates' work

Candidates

- Authenticate their work as required by the awarding body

Invigilation

Exams officer

- Provides an invigilation handbook and briefs invigilators accordingly
- Deploys invigilators effectively to exam rooms throughout the exam series
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms according to the required ratios
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates

SENCo

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

Invigilators

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

Security of exam materials

Exams officer

- Has a process in place to record confidential materials delivered to the centre and issued to authorised staff
- Has in place a recording system to track confidential materials taken from or returned to secure storage throughout the time the material is confidential
- Receives, checks and securely stores question papers and other exam materials according to JCQ and awarding body requirements

Reception staff

- Follow the process to record confidential materials delivered to the centre and issued to authorised staff

Teaching staff

- Adhere to the recording system to track 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 resolve candidate exam clashes

- Identifies exam rooms and specialist equipment requirements
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms 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

Transferred candidate arrangements

Exams officer

- Liaises with the host or entering centre, as required
- Processes requests to the awarding body deadline
- Where relevant informs the candidate of the arrangements that have been made for their transferred candidate arrangements

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

JCQ inspection visit

Exams officer or Senior leader

Accompanies the Inspector throughout the course of his or her centre visit, including inspection of the centre's secure storage facility

Seating and identifying candidates in exam rooms

Exams officer

- Ensures a procedure is in place to verify candidate identity including private candidates
- Provide photographs of exam candidates in each exam room.
- Ensures invigilators are aware of the procedure
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms according to JCQ and awarding body requirements

Senior Leader

- Will provide staff at the start of every exam to verify the identity of all internal candidates.

Invigilators

- Seat candidates in exam rooms as instructed by the EO/in the seating plan

Candidate absence/late arrival

Exams officer

- Attempt to contact any candidate who is not present at the start of an exam and deal with them in accordance with JCQ guidelines
- Ensures that candidates who arrive very late for an exam are reported to the awarding body as soon as practically possible after the exam has taken place
- Warns candidates that their work may not be accepted by the awarding body

Invigilators

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

Candidates

- Are charged relevant entry fees for unauthorised absence from exams

Conducting exams

Exams officer

- Ensures exams are conducted according to JCQ and awarding body instructions
- Ensures each exam session is fully prepared for,
- Ensures venues used for conducting exams meet the requirements of JCQ and awarding bodies

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 secure storage
- Attaches erratum notices received to relevant exam question paper packets
- Collates attendance registers and examiner details in date order
- Regularly checks mail or inbox for updates from awarding bodies

Exam rooms

Exams officer

- Ensures only approved centre staff are present in exam rooms
- Ensures exam rooms are set up 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
- Ensures invigilators understand how to deal with candidates who may need to leave the exam room temporarily
- 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
- Ensures information relating to food and drink that may be allowed in exam rooms is clearly communicated to candidates

Senior leaders

- Ensure a documented emergency evacuation procedure for exam rooms is in place
- Ensure arrangements are in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance if an exam room is evacuated

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 as instructed in training/update events and briefing sessions

Candidates

- Are required to remain in the exam room for the full duration of the exam

Irregularities

Head of centre

- Ensures any cases of suspected malpractice (by centre staff, candidates, invigilators) are investigated and reported to the awarding body as required

Senior leaders

- Ensure support is provided for the EO and invigilators when dealing with disruptive candidates in exam rooms
- Ensure that internal disciplinary procedures relating to candidate behaviour are instigated, when appropriate

Exams officer

- Provides an exam room incident log in all exam rooms for recording any incidents or irregularities
- Actions any required follow-up and reports to awarding bodies as soon as practically possible after the exam has taken place

Invigilators

- Record any incidents or irregularities on the exam room incident log (e.g. late/very late arrival, suspected malpractice, candidate illness, disruption or disturbance in the exam room, emergency evacuation)

Special consideration

Exams officer

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

Candidates

- Provide appropriate evidence to support special consideration requests, where required, within 7 days of the date of the exam concerned

Unauthorised materials

Exams officer

- Advise parents and candidates and invigilators of the arrangements for unauthorised materials taken into the exam room prior to each exam series.

Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities

Candidates

- Results may only be collected by candidates. Candidates can arrange for results to be collected on their behalf by providing the EO with written or email permission/authorisation; authorised persons must provide ID evidence on collection of results

Internal assessment

Head of department

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

Managing results day(s)

Senior leaders

- Identify centre staff who will be involved in the main summer results day(s) and their role
- Ensures staff are available for candidates as results are issued

Site staff

- Ensure the centre is open and accessible to centre staff and candidates, as required

Accessing results

Exams officer

- Informs candidates in advance of when and how results will be released to them
- Accesses results from awarding bodies under restricted release of results
- 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

Exams officer

- Provides information to candidates and staff 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 collect candidate informed consent and fees
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline
- Tracks requests to conclusion and informs candidates and relevant centre staff of outcomes
- Updates centre results information

Candidates

- Meet internal deadlines to request the services
- Provide necessary consent and fees

Certificates

Certificates are provided to centres by awarding bodies after results have been confirmed. Certificates are held in school for two years.

Exams officer

- Certificates are collated by the EO and distributed (during form time) to U6 and L6. Leavers certificates are held for collection in the School Office.

Candidates

- Certificates may only be collected by candidates
- Candidates may arrange for certificates to be collected on their behalf by providing the EO with written or email permission/authorisation; authorised persons must provide ID evidence on collection of certificates