



EXAMS POLICY

Audience: Staff/Governors/Parents

Status: Recommended

Date of Issue: July 2014

Date of Governor Approval: 10th July 2014

Frequency of Review: Annually

Post Holder responsible for Review: Headteacher and Examinations Officer

Link with Governance: Full Governors

Recommended associated documents:

Date of Last Review	8.5.17
Date of Next Review	May 2018

EXAMS POLICY

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The policy is next due for review March 2017

The purpose of this exams policy is:

- to ensure the planning and management of exams is conducted efficiently and in the best interests of candidates;
- to ensure the operation of an efficient exams system with clear guidelines for all relevant staff.

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

The exams policy will be reviewed every year.

The exams policy will be reviewed by the Head of Centre

Where references are made to JCQ regulations/guidelines, further details can be found at www.jcq.org.uk.

Exam responsibilities

The head of centre:

- has overall responsibility for the school/college as an exams centre and advises on appeals and re-marks.
- is responsible for reporting all suspected or actual incidents of malpractice - refer to the JCQ document *Suspected malpractice in examinations and assessments*.

Exams officer¹:

- manages the administration of internal exams and external exams.
- advises the senior leadership team, subject and class tutors, and other relevant support staff on annual exams timetables and procedures as set by the various awarding bodies.
- oversees the production and distribution, to all centre staff and candidates, of an annual calendar for all exams in which candidates will be involved and communicates regularly with staff concerning imminent deadlines and events.
- ensures that candidates and their parents are informed of and understand those aspects of the exams timetable that will affect them.
- checks with teaching staff that the necessary coursework and/or controlled assessments are completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- provides and confirms detailed data on estimated entries.
- maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their exams.
- receives, checks and stores securely all exam papers and completed scripts and ensures that scripts are dispatched as per the guidelines.

¹ This is the individual to whom the Head of Centre has delegated responsibility for the administration of exams in their centre.

- administers access arrangements and makes applications for special consideration following the regulations in the JCQ publication *A guide to the special consideration process*.
- identifies and manages exam timetable clashes.
- accounts for income and expenditures relating to all exam costs/charges.
- line manages the senior exams invigilator in organising the recruitment, training, and monitoring of a team of exams invigilators responsible for the conduct of exams.
- ensures candidates' coursework / controlled assessment marks are submitted, and any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies correctly and on schedule.
- tracks, dispatches, and stores returned coursework / controlled assessments.
- arranges for dissemination of exam results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the SLT, any post results service requests.

Subject Leaders are responsible for:

- guidance and pastoral oversight of candidates who are unsure about exams entries or amendments to entries.
- accurate completion of entry and all other mark sheets and adherence to deadlines as set by the exams officer.
- accurate completion of coursework / controlled assessment mark sheets and declaration sheets.
- decisions on post-results procedures.

Teachers are responsible for:

- supplying information on entries, coursework and controlled assessments as required by the head of department and/or exams officer.

The special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) is responsible for:

- identification and testing of candidates' requirements for access arrangements and notifying the exams officer in good time so that they are able to put in place exam day arrangements
- process any necessary applications in order to gain approval (if required).
- working with the exams officer to provide the access arrangements required by candidates in exams rooms.

Lead invigilator/invigilators are responsible for:

- assisting the exams officer in the efficient running of exams according to JCQ regulations.
- collection of exam papers and other material from the exams office before the start of the exam.
- collection of all exam papers in the correct order at the end of the exam and ensuring their return to the exams office.

Candidates are responsible for:

- confirmation and signing of entries.
- understanding coursework / controlled assessment regulations and signing a declaration that authenticates the coursework as their own.
- ensuring they conduct themselves in all exams according to the JCQ regulations.

Qualifications offered

The qualifications offered at this centre are decided by the SLT

The types of qualifications offered are GCSE/GCE/BTEC Level 2 and 3/OCR NATIONALS Level 2 and 3.

The subjects offered for these qualifications in any academic year may be found in the centre's published prospectus or similar documents for that year. If there is to be a change of specification for the next year, the exams office must be informed by July 2014.

Informing the exams office of changes to a specification is the responsibility of the Subject Leaders

Decisions on whether a candidate should be entered for a particular subject will be taken by SLT in consultation with the Subject Leaders.

Exam series

Internal exams (mock or trial exams) and assessments are scheduled in Autumn/Summer series.

External exams and assessments are scheduled in Summer series.

Internal exams are held under external exam conditions.

The Head of Centre *decides* which exam series are used in the centre.

Exam timetables

Once confirmed, the exams officer will circulate the exam timetables for internal and external exams at a specified date before each series begins.

Entries, entry details and late entries

Candidates or parents/carers cannot request a subject entry, change of level or withdrawal.

The centre accepts entries from private candidates.

The centre does not act as an exams centre for other organisations.

Entry deadlines are circulated to Subject Leaders via *email, noticeboard, briefing meetings, pigeon hole, the school intranet*

Subject Leaders will provide estimated entry information to the exams officer to meet JCQ and awarding body deadlines.

Entries and amendments made after an awarding organisation's deadline (i.e. late) require the authorisation of SLT.

GCSE re-sits/retakes are allowed.

AS re-sits/retakes are allowed.

A level re-sits/retakes are allowed.

Re-sit decisions will be made by SLT in consultation with Subject Leaders.

Exam fees

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

The exams officer will publish the deadline for actions well in advance for each exams series.

GCSE entry exam fees are paid by the centre.

AS entry exam fees are paid by the centre.

A level entry exam fees are paid by the centre.

Late entry or amendment fees are paid by the centre.

Fee reimbursements are not sought from candidates:

Re-sit fees are paid by the centre.

Private candidates exam fees are paid by the candidate.

Equality Legislation

All exam centre staff must ensure that they meet the requirements of any equality legislation.

The centre will comply with the legislation, including making reasonable adjustments to the service that they provide to candidates in accordance with requirements defined by the legislation, awarding bodies, and JCQ. This is the responsibility of the Head of Centre.

Access arrangements

The Assistant SENCo will inform subject teachers of candidates with special educational needs and any special arrangements that individual candidates will need during the course and in any assessments/exams.

A candidate's access arrangements requirement is determined by the Assistant SENCo.

Ensuring there is appropriate evidence for a candidate's access arrangement is the responsibility of Assistant SENCo.

Submitting completed access arrangement applications to the awarding bodies is the responsibility of the Exams Officer.

Rooming for access arrangement candidates will be arranged by the Exams Officer.

Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates, as defined in the JCQ access arrangements regulations, will be organised by the Exams Officer.

Overseas candidates

Managing overseas candidates is the responsibility of the Senior Leader Post 16.

Contingency planning

Contingency planning for exams administration is the responsibility of the Head of Centre.

Contingency plans are available via email, noticeboard, briefing meetings, pigeon hole, the school intranet and are in line with the guidance provided by Ofqual, JCQ and awarding organisations.

Private candidates

Managing private candidates is the responsibility of the Exams Officer.

Estimated grades

Subject Leaders are responsible for submitting estimated grades to the exams officer when requested by the exams officer.

Managing invigilators

External staff will not be used to invigilate examinations.

These invigilators will be used for internal exams and external exams.

Recruitment of invigilators is the responsibility of the Exams Officer.

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

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

Invigilators' rates of pay are set by the Head of Centre.

Invigilators are recruited, timetabled, trained, and briefed by the Exams Officer.

Malpractice

The head of centre in consultation with Exams Officer is responsible for investigating suspected malpractice.

Exam days

The exams officer will book all exam rooms after liaison with other users and make the question papers, other exam stationery and materials available for the invigilator.

Site management staff is responsible for setting up the allocated rooms, and will be advised of requirements two weeks in advance.

The Exams Officer/Senior Invigilator will start and finish all exams in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Subject staff may not be present at the start of the exam to assist with identification of candidates. Any staff present must be in accordance with the rules defined by JCQ concerning who is allowed in the exam room and what they can do.

In practical exams, subject teachers' availability will be in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Exam papers must not be read by subject teachers or removed from the exam room before the end of a session. Papers will be distributed to heads of department in accordance with JCQ's recommendations and no later than twenty four hours after candidates have completed them.

After an exam, the exams officer will arrange for the safe dispatch of completed examination scripts to awarding bodies, working in conjunction with Senior Invigilator.

Candidates

The exams officer will provide written information to candidates in advance of each exam series. A formal briefing session for candidates may be given by the SLT.

The centre's published rules on acceptable dress and behaviour apply at all times. Candidates' personal belongings remain their own responsibility and the centre accepts no liability for their loss or damage.

In an exam room candidates must not have access to items other than those clearly allowed in the instructions on the question paper, the stationery list, or the specification for that subject. This is particularly true of mobile phones and other electronic communication or storage devices with text or digital facilities. Any precluded items must not be taken into an exam room.

Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Candidates are expected to stay for the full exam time at the discretion of the SLT/Exams Officer.

Note: candidates who leave an exam room must be accompanied by an appropriate member of staff at all times.

The Exams Officer is responsible for handling late or absent candidates on exam day.

Clash candidates

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

Special consideration

Should a candidate be unable to attend an exam because of illness, suffer bereavement or other trauma, be ill or otherwise disadvantaged or disturbed during an exam, then it is the candidate's responsibility to alert the centre's Exams Officer to that effect.

The candidate must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence within three days of the exam.

The exams officer will make a special consideration application to the relevant awarding body within three days of the exam.

Internal assessment

It is the duty of subject leaders to ensure that all internal assessment is ready for dispatch at the correct time. The exams officer will assist by keeping a record of each dispatch, including the recipient details and the date and time sent.

Marks for all internally assessed work are provided to the exams office by the subject leaders. The exams officer will inform staff of the date when appeals against internal assessments must be made by. Any appeals will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's Internal Appeals Procedure (IAP) document.

Results

Candidates will receive individual results slips on results days,

- in person at the centre
- by post to their home address - candidates to provide a self-addressed envelope
- collected and signed for

The results slip will be in the form of a centre produced document.

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

The provision of the necessary staff on results days is the responsibility of the Exams Officer

Enquiries about Results (EAR)

EARs may be requested by centre staff or the candidate following the release of results. A request for a re-mark or clerical check requires the written consent of the candidate, a request for a re-moderation of internally assessed work may be submitted without the consent of the group of candidates.

The cost of EARs will be paid by the centre.

All decisions on whether to make an application for an EAR will be made by SLT.

If a candidate's request for an EAR is not supported, the candidate may appeal and the centre will respond by following the process in its Internal Appeals Procedure (IAP) document.

All processing of EARs will be the responsibility of the Exams Officer, following the JCQ guidance.

Access to Scripts (ATS)

After the release of results, candidates may ask subject staff to request the return of written exam papers within fifteen days of the receipt of results.

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

An EAR cannot be applied for once an original script has been returned.

The cost of EARs will be paid by the centre or candidate.

Processing of requests for ATS will be the responsibility of Exams Officer.

Certificates

Candidates will receive their certificates

- in person at the centre collected and signed for

Certificates can be collected on behalf of a candidate by third parties, provided they have written authority from the candidate to do so, and bring suitable identification with them that confirms who they are.

The centre retains certificates for five years.

A new certificate will not be issued by an awarding organisation. A transcript of results may be issued if a candidate agrees to pay the costs incurred.

Head of Centre

Exams Officer

Mr I Bryant

Mrs J Downes

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Date

10th July 2014

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KINGSMEAD SCHOOL

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES – GCSE CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS

Senior Leadership Team

At the start of the academic year, co-ordinate with Curriculum/Subject Leaders to schedule controlled assessments.

Decide on the awarding body and specification for particular GCSE.

Ensure that all staff involved have a calendar of events.

Create, publish and update an internal appeals policy for controlled assessments.

Curriculum/Subject Leaders

Ensure assessments comply with JCQ guidelines and awarding bodies' subject-specific instructions.

Standardise internally the marking of all teachers involved in assessing an internally assessed component.

Ensure that individual teachers fully understand their responsibilities with regard to controlled assessment.

Ensure that individual teachers fully understand the requirements of the awarding body's specification, are familiar with the relevant teachers' notes and any other subject specific instructions.

Where appropriate, develop new assessment tasks or adapt sample awarding body assessment tasks to meet local circumstances, in line with the awarding body's specification and control requirements.

Supply to the exams office details of all unit codes for controlled assessments.

Ensure that candidates and supervising teachers sign authentication forms on completion of an assessment.

Special Education needs co-ordinator/additional learning support

Ensure access arrangements have been applied for.

Work with teaching staff to ensure requirements for support staff are met.

Teaching Staff

Understand and comply with the general guidelines detailed within the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting controlled assessments*.

Understand and comply with the awarding body's specification for conducting controlled assessments, including any subject-specific instructions, teachers' notes or additional information on the awarding body's website.

Obtain confidential materials/tasks set by awarding bodies in sufficient time to prepare for the assessment and ensure that such materials are stored securely at all times.

Supervise assessments (at the specified level of control). Undertake the tasks required under the regulations, only permitting assistance to candidates as the specification allows.

Mark internally assessed components using the mark scheme provided by the awarding. Submit marks to the awarding body by the published deadline, keeping a record of the marks awarded.

Retain candidate's work securely between assessment sessions (if more than one).

Post-completion, retain candidates' work securely until the closing date for enquiries about results. In the event that an enquiry is submitted, retain candidates' work securely until the outcome of the enquiry and any subsequent appeal has been conveyed to the centre.

Ask the Assistant SENCo for any assistance required for the administration and management of access arrangements.

Exams Office

Where confidential materials are directly received by the exams office, to be responsible for receipt, safe storage and safe transmission, whether in CD or hard copy format.

Distribute marksheets for teaching staff to use.

In exceptional circumstances where controlled assessments cannot be conducted in the classroom, arrange suitable accommodation where controlled assessments can be carried out at the direction of the SLT.

Risk Management Process – Kingsmead School

RISKS AND ISSUES	Possible remedial action		Staff
	Forward planning	Action	
Timetabling			
Controlled assessment schedule clashes with other activities	Plan/establish priorities well ahead (e.g. at the start of the academic year)	Plan dates in consultation with school calendar – negotiate with other parties	SLT/EXAMS OFFICER
Too many controlled assessments close together across GCSE subjects	Plan controlled assessments so they are spaced over the duration of the course	Space controlled assessments to allow candidates some time between them	SLT/EXAMS OFFICER
Accommodation			
Insufficient space in classrooms for candidates	Once the size of the cohort is known at the start of the year, flag instances where regular classroom space may not be suitable to conduct controlled assessments	Use more than one classroom or multiple sittings where necessary	EXAMS OFFICER
Insufficient facilities for all candidates	Careful planning ahead and booking of rooms / centre facilities		EXAMS OFFICER
Downloading awarding body set tasks			
IT system unavailable on day of assessment	Download tasks well ahead of scheduled assessment date in all cases	Book IT equipment well ahead and download tasks before scheduled date of assessment	ICT TECHNICIAN
Teaching staff unable to access task details	Test secure access rights ahead of controlled assessment schedule every year and every session	Ensure teaching staff have access rights for the correct area of awarding body secure extranet sites well ahead of the controlled assessment schedule	EXAMS OFFICER
Loss of task details in transmission	Download tasks well ahead of scheduled assessment date	Contact awarding body and ask for replacement task; download again	ICT TECHNICIAN EXAMS OFFICER

RISKS AND ISSUES	Possible remedial action		Staff
	Forward planning	Action	
Absent candidates			
Candidates absent for all or part of assessment (various reasons)	Plan alternative session(s) for candidates		SUBJECT LEADERS
Control levels for task taking			
The assessment is undertaken under incorrect level of control (time, resources, supervision and collaboration)	Ensure teaching staff know what level is applicable and understand what is involved. Provide training if required	Seek guidance from the awarding body	EXAMS OFFICER
Supervision			
Teaching staff do not understand that the supervision of controlled assessments is their responsibility	Ensure teaching staff fully understand the nature of controlled assessments and their role in supervising assessments		EXAMS OFFICER
A suitable supervisor has not been arranged for an assessment where teaching staff are not supervising	A suitable supervisor must be arranged for any controlled assessment session where a teacher is not supervising, in line with the awarding body's specification		EXAMS OFFICER
Task setting			
Teaching staff fail to correctly set tasks	Ensure teaching staff fully understand the task setting arrangements as defined in the awarding body's specification**	Seek guidance from the awarding body	CURRICULUM/SUBJECT LEADERS
Assessments have not been moderated in line with the awarding body's specification	Check specification and plan required moderation appropriately	Seek guidance from the awarding body	CURRICULUM/SUBJECT LEADERS

RISKS AND ISSUES	Possible remedial action		Staff
	Forward planning	Action	
Security of materials			
Assessment tasks not kept secure before assessment	Ensure teaching staff fully understand the importance of task security	Contact the awarding body to request/obtain different assessment tasks	EXAMS OFFICER
Candidates' work not kept secure during or after assessment	Define the appropriate level of security, in line with the awarding body's requirements, for each department as necessary	Seek guidance from the awarding body	EXAMS OFFICER
Insufficient or insecure storage space	Look at provision for suitable storage at the start of the GCSE course	Find alternative storage within the centre	EXAMS OFFICER

Deadlines			
Deadlines not met by candidates	Ensure all candidates are briefed on deadlines and the penalties for not meeting them	Mark what candidates have produced by the deadline Seek guidance from awarding body on further action	SUBJECT LEADERS
Deadlines for marking and/or paperwork not met by teaching staff	Ensure teaching staff are given clear deadlines (prior to the awarding body deadline) to complete marking/paperwork (Marks can then be processed and submitted ahead of awarding body deadlines)	Seek guidance from awarding body	SUBJECT LEADERS

RISKS AND ISSUES	Possible remedial action		Staff
	Forward planning	Action	
Authentication			
Candidate fails to sign authentication form	<p>Ensure all candidates have authentication forms to sign</p> <p>Ensure that the authentication form is securely attached to their work when it is completed and handed in for marking</p>	Find candidate and ensure authentication form is signed	SUBJECT LEADERS
Teaching staff fail to complete authentication forms or leave before completing the authentication process	Ensure teaching staff fully understand the importance of authentication forms and the requirement of a signature	<p>Return the authentication form to the teacher for signature</p> <p>Ensure authentication forms are signed as work is marked</p>	EXAMS OFFICER
Marking			
Teaching staff interpret marking descriptions incorrectly	<p>Ensure appropriate training and practicing of marking</p> <p>Plan for sampling of marking during the practice phase</p>	<p>Arrange for re-marking</p> <p>Consult the awarding body's specification for appropriate procedures</p>	CURRICULUM/ SUBJECT LEADERS
Centre does not run the standardisation activity as required by the awarding body	Plan against the awarding body's requirements for standardisation, i.e. when and how this activity must be conducted	Check with the awarding body whether a later standardisation event can be arranged	CURRICULUM/ SUBJECT LEADERS

Appeals against Internal Assessments

KINGSMEAD SCHOOL is committed to ensuring that whenever its staff assesses students' work for external qualification, this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the specification for the qualification concerned. Assessments are conducted by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skill, and who have been trained in this activity. The centre is committed to ensuring that assessment evidence provided by candidates is produced and authenticated according to the requirements of the relevant specifications for each subject. Where a set of work is divided between staff, internal moderation and standardisation will ensure consistency.

If a student feels that this may not have happened in relation to his/her work, s/he may make use of this appeals procedure. Note that the appeals may only be made against the process that led to the assessment and not against the mark or grade submitted by the centre for moderation by the awarding body.

This procedure is available from the exams officer and is posted on the exams notice board.

1. Appeals should be made as early as possible and at least two weeks before the end of the last externally assessed paper in the examination series (eg the last GCSE written paper in the June GCSE exam series).
2. Appeals should be made in writing by the candidate's parent/carer to the exams officer (EO), who will investigate the appeal with at least two other members of staff who have not been involved in the internal assessment decision. If the EO was directly involved in the assessment in question, the headteacher will appoint another member of staff of similar or greater seniority to conduct the investigation. Likewise if the EO is not able to conduct the investigation for some other reason.
3. The purpose of the appeal will be to decide whether the process used for the internal assessment conformed to the published requirements of the awarding body and the examinations code of practice of QCDA.
4. The appellant will be informed in writing of the outcome of the appeal, including any relevant correspondence with the awarding body and any changes made to the procedure relating to the internal assessment.
5. The outcome of the appeal will be made known to the headteacher and will be logged as a complaint. A written record will be kept and made available to the awarding body upon request. Should the appeal bring any significant irregularity to light, the awarding body will be informed.

After work has been assessed internally, it is moderated by the awarding body to ensure consistency between centres. Such moderation frequently changes the marks awarded for internally assessed work. That is outside the control of KINGSMEAD SCHOOL and is not covered by this procedure. If you have any concerns about it, please ask the EO for a copy of the appeals procedure of the relevant awarding body.

Enquires about Examination Results

Enquiries about results may be requested by teaching staff or candidates if there are reasonable grounds for believing there may have been an error in marking.

If this is requested, The Examination Officer may agree that an appeal can be made at the centres expense.

If the Examinations Officer does not agree to an appeal, the candidate may decide to proceed but, in this case, they will be charged for the cost of the appeal.