



The Fernwood School

High Achievement with Care & Discipline for All

Exam Policy

Centre Number 28242

This policy will be monitored regularly and evaluated so that it remains responsive to current issues. This will be co-ordinated by the Exams Officer

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1. Exam responsibilities

Head of centre

Overall responsibility for the school as an exam centre:

- Advises on appeals and re-marks
- The head of centre is responsible for reporting all suspicions or actual incidents of malpractice. Refer to the JCQ document *Suspected malpractice in examinations and assessments*.

Exams officer

Manages the administration of public and internal exams and analysis of exam results:

- Advises the senior leadership team, subject and class tutors and other relevant support staff on annual exam timetables and application procedures as set by the various exam boards
- oversees the production and distribution to staff, governors 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 exam timetable that will affect them
- consults with teaching staff to ensure that necessary coursework is completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines
- provides and confirms detailed data on estimated entries
- receives, checks and stores securely all exam papers and completed scripts
- in consultation with the SENCO, administers access arrangements and makes applications for special consideration using the JCQ *Access arrangements and special considerations regulations and Guidance relating to candidates who are eligible for adjustments in examinations*
- identifies and manages exam timetable clashes
- accounts for income and expenditures relating to all exam costs/charge
- line manages the exams administrator and senior exam invigilator in organising the recruitment, training and monitoring of a team of exams invigilators responsible for the conduct of exams
- prepares and presents reports to the SLT showing results achieved in relation to expected grades and comparable data for previous years, indicating where future procedural improvements might be made
- submits candidates' coursework marks, tracks dispatch and stores returned coursework and any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies correctly and on schedule
- arranges for dissemination of exam results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the SLT, any appeals/re-mark requests
- maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their exams

Deputy head

- Organisation of teaching and learning
- External validation of courses followed at key stage 4 / post-16

Heads of department/school/curriculum

- Guidance and pastoral oversight of candidates who are unsure about exam entries or amendments to entries
- Involvement in post-results procedures
- Accurate completion of coursework mark sheets and declaration sheets.
- Accurate completion of entry and all other mark sheets and adherence to deadlines as set by the exams officer.



Head of careers

- Guidance and careers information

Teachers

- Notification of access arrangements (as soon as possible after the start of the course)
- Submission of candidates' names to heads of department/school/curriculum

SENCO

- Administration of access arrangements
- Identification and testing of candidates, requirements for access arrangement
- Provision of additional support — with spelling, reading, mathematics, dyslexia or essential skills, hearing impairment, English for speakers of other languages, IT equipment — to help candidates achieve their course aims

Exams administrator

- Supports the exams officer in all administrative tasks
- Ensures the smooth running of exam days

Lead invigilator/invigilators

- 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
- Parcel up exam scripts for collection

Candidates

- Confirmation and signing of entries
- Understanding coursework regulations and signing a declaration that authenticates the coursework as their own

2. The statutory tests and qualifications offered

At key stage 4

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

3. Exam seasons and timetables

3.1 Exam seasons

Internal exams are scheduled in December and May. Year 11 mock examinations take place in the exam halls with external invigilators provided.

External exams are scheduled in June.

All internal exams are held under external exam conditions.

Which exam series are used in the centre is decided by the head of centre, deputy head and the heads of curriculum.

3.2 Timetables

Once confirmed, the exams officer will circulate the exam timetables for internal exams and external exams.



4. Entries, entry details and late entries

4.1 Entries

It is the policy of this school that when a pupil begins a GCSE or other course in Year 10, there is an entitlement to an entry for the relevant examination, usually in Year 11. (The exception to this may be compulsory RE, when not all pupils will be entered for an examination.) This situation should be the norm for all pupils; the non-entry of a pupil for the public examination at the end of the course should only happen in exceptional circumstances.

The following are examples of the type of situation where non-entry might be proposed:

- the pupil has been absent for a significant part of the course
- the pupil has special educational needs which mean that the sitting of the examination would be an ordeal and/or the pupil is unlikely to achieve a GCSE grade or equivalent, and one which neither the pupil nor their parents wish to undergo
- vital coursework is missing, or large amounts of the course have not been adequately completed.

In all of or each of these examples, it should not be assumed that the pupil will not be entered for the examination. The decision will be made in a formal process which involves the pupil, her/his parents, the subject teacher, the Head of Department, the SENCO (if appropriate), the Head of Year and the Curriculum Deputy. Under no circumstances should the parents or the relevant members of staff be surprised by the events which have led to the suggestion of non-entry. For example, if lack of work is the problem there should have been regular communication between school and home over the period of the course, including referral to 'Compulsory Support'. Parents **must** be informed of the school's concern and the possible consequences for the child.

If there is a case for the pupil to be denied their entitlement of entry to the examination, the relevant Head of Year and the Deputy Head: Curriculum will discuss the case with the relevant people and will set up an appointment with parents and pupil where the situation can be outlined. A formal decision will be made following this consultation.

Candidates or parents/carers, can request a subject entry, change of entry or withdrawal.

4.2 Late entries

Entry deadlines are circulated to heads of department via notice board.

Late entries are authorised by the heads of curriculum.

5. Exam fees

The centre will pay all normal exam fees on behalf of candidates.

Late entry or amendment fees are paid by departments.

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.

If a candidate is absent for an exam without a specific reason, the entry fee and administrative costs will be passed on to parents\carers.



6. The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), special needs and access arrangements

6.1 DDA

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 extends the application of the DDA to general qualifications. All exam centre staff must ensure that the access arrangements and special consideration regulations and guidance are consistent with the law.

6.2 Special needs

A candidate's special needs requirements are determined by the SENCO.

The SENCO will inform subject teachers of candidates with special educational needs who are embarking on a course leading to an exam, and the date of that exam. The SENCO can then inform individual staff of any special arrangements that individual candidates can be granted during the course and in the exam.

6.3 Access arrangements

Making special arrangements for candidates to take exams is the responsibility of the 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 SENCO with the exams officer.

Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates will be organised by the SENCO with the exams officer.

7. Estimated grades

Estimated grades

The heads of department and the heads of subject will submit estimated grades to the exams officer when requested by the exams officer.

8. Managing invigilators and exam days

8.1 Managing invigilators

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

The recruitment of invigilators is the responsibility of the exams office.



Securing the necessary Criminal Records Bureau (formerly CRB now referred to as DBS) clearance for new invigilators is the responsibility of the centre administration. DBS fees for securing such clearance are paid by the centre.

Invigilators are timetabled and briefed by the exams office.

Invigilators' rates of pay are set by the centre administration.

8.2 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 is responsible for setting up the allocated rooms.

The lead invigilator will start all exams in accordance with JCQ guidelines and be the main support for assistant invigilators.

Subject staff may be present at the start of the exam to assist with identification of candidates but must not advise on which questions are to be attempted. 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 at the end of the exam session.

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

A relevant subject teacher may be available to read out any subject-specific instructions and start the exam, if required.

9. Candidates, clash candidates and special consideration

9.1 Candidates

The centre's published rules on acceptable dress, behaviour and candidates' use of mobile phones and all electronic devices apply at all times. Candidates' personal belongings remain their own responsibility and the centre accepts no liability for their loss or damage.

Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Candidates may leave the exam room for a genuine purpose requiring an immediate return to the exam room, in which case a member of staff must accompany them.

The exams officer will attempt to contact any candidate who is not present at the start of an exam and deal with them in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

9.2 Clash candidates

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

9.3 Special consideration

Should a candidate be ill before an exam, suffer bereavement or other trauma, be taken ill during the exam itself or otherwise disadvantaged or disturbed during an exam, then it is the candidate's responsibility to alert the centre, the exams officer, or the exam invigilator, to that effect.



The candidate must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence within three days of the exam, for example a letter from the candidate's doctor.

The exams officer will then forward a completed special consideration form to the relevant awarding body within seven days of the exam.

10. Coursework and appeals against internal assessments

10.1 Coursework and Controlled Assessments

Candidates who have to prepare coursework should do so by the end of the course.

Heads of department will ensure all coursework is ready for dispatch at the correct time. The exams officer will keep a record of what has been sent when and to whom.

Marks for all internally assessed work and estimated grades are provided to the exams office by the subject teachers, heads of subject and the heads of department.

10.2 Appeals against internal assessments

The centre is obliged to publish a separate procedure on this subject, which is available from the exams office (see Appendix 1).

The main points are:

- appeals will only be entertained if they apply to the process leading to an assessment. There is no appeal against the mark or grade awarded
- candidates may appeal if they feel their coursework has been assessed unfairly, inconsistently or not in accordance with the specification for the qualification
- appeals should be made in writing by 30 June to the head of centre (or other nominee) who will decide whether the process used conformed to the necessary requirements
- the head of centre's findings will be notified in writing, copied to the exams officer and recorded for awarding body inspection.

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

11.1 Results

Candidates will receive individual results slips on results days either in person at the centre or by post to their home addresses (candidates to provide sae). Arrangements for the school to be open on results days are made by the head of centre.

The provision of staff on results days is the responsibility of the head of centre.



11.2 EARs

EARs may be requested by centre staff or candidates if there are reasonable grounds for believing there has been an error in marking. If a result is queried, the exams officer, teaching staff and head of centre will investigate the feasibility of asking for a re-mark at the centre's expense.

When the centre does not uphold an EAR, a candidate may apply to have an enquiry carried out. If a candidate requires this against the advice of subject staff, they will be charged.

11.3 ATS

After the release of results, candidates may ask subject staff to request the return of papers within three days' scrutiny of the results. Centre staff may also request scripts for investigation or for teaching purposes. For the latter, the consent of candidates must be obtained.

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

(See also section 5: Exam fees)

12. Certificates

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

The centre retains certificates for one year.

Replacement certificates are only obtainable by the candidate via the individual exam board.

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Head of Centre : Mrs. T Rees
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Exams officer : Mr. K Mayle
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