

## BILBROUGH COUNTRY CLASSROOM EXAMS POLICY

### Purpose of the policy

The Bilbrough Country Classroom 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 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
- exam candidates understand the exams process and what is expected of them.

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure ways of working 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.

### Roles and responsibilities overview

#### Headteacher

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications
- Ensures the National Centre Number Register Annual Update (administered on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies by OCR) 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 staff are supported and appropriately trained to undertake key tasks within the exams process
- Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
- Ensures that a teacher who teaches the subject being examined, or a senior member of teaching staff who has had overall responsibility for the candidates preparation for the examination, **is not an invigilator during the examination or on-screen test**
- Ensures security within the examination process is managed according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions
- Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place
- Ensures required internal appeals procedures are in place
- Ensures a disability policy showing the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place
- Ensures the centre has documented processes in place relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustment
- 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
- 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

### **Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo)**

- Is familiar with the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually 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 the administration of the assessment process
- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification

### **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

### **All staff**

- Support the EO in dealing with exam-related deliveries and dispatches with due regard to the security of confidential materials
- Support the EO in relevant matters relating to exam rooms and resources.

### **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

## **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 grouped into the following stages:

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

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

## **Planning: roles and responsibilities**

### **Information sharing**

- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ publications and awarding body documentation relating to the exams process that has been updated
- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ information that should be provided to candidates
- As the administrator, approves relevant access rights for 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 practice exams

#### **Headteacher**

- 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 thereby ensuring that
- 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
- 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

## Internal assessment

### Headteacher

- Ensures an **internal appeals procedure** is in place for a candidate (or parent/carer) to appeal against an internal assessment decision (see Roles and responsibilities overview)
- Ensures a policy for the **management of controlled assessment** is in place for legacy GCSE qualifications, identifying staff responsibilities and examining potential risks
- Ensures a **non-examination assessment policy** is in place for new GCE and GCSE qualifications
- Ensures irregularities are investigated and any cases of suspected malpractice reported to the awarding body, as required
- 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
- Ensures teaching staff delivering legacy GCSE qualifications follow JCQ *Instructions for conducting controlled assessments* and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensures teaching staff delivering legacy GCE unitised AS and A-level qualifications and Entry Level or Project qualifications follow JCQ *Instructions for conducting coursework* and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensures teaching staff delivering new GCE & GCSE specifications follow JCQ *Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments* and the specification provided by the awarding body
- For other qualifications, ensures teaching staff follow appropriate instructions issued 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

### **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 role of a facilitator who may be supporting a candidate) 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

#### **Headteacher**

- 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

### **Headteacher**

- Provides information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- 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**

The centre pays any initial registration fees and exam entry fees.

As stated below, late entry or amendment fees are charged to departmental budgets. Candidates and departments will not be charged for changes of tier, withdrawals made by the proper procedures or alterations arising from administrative processes, providing these are made within the time allowed by the exam boards.

Candidates must pay the fee for an enquiry about a result (EAR) should the centre not agree to make the enquiry and the candidate insists on pursuing it.

Re-marks or Access to Scripts are either agreed to be paid by the subject department or the candidate must make the payment when the request is made.

Reimbursement will be sought from candidates who fail to sit an exam without good reason. This is detailed in the 'Information and Guidance for Students and Parents' booklet that goes out with the exam timetable.

Reimbursement will be sought from candidates who leave Harrogate High School, without good reason, after the date when a refund for withdrawals from exams/BTECs is allowed. This is detailed in the 'Information and Guidance for Students and Parents' booklet that goes out with the exam timetable and also on the sixth form contract.

### **Late entries**

#### **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

#### **Headteacher**

- 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**

Whether a candidate re-sits an exam should be discussed with, and advised by, the relevant HoD and/or class teacher. Candidates wishing to or required to re-sit an exam may be charged the cost of the entry. This includes cases where an entry was made in, for example, the November series but the candidate did not attend (and had no good reason for absence), who is then entered in the following summer series. Candidates may also be charged for the cost of the exam where they were found guilty of malpractice and are re-sitting the unit because no marks were awarded.

The cost of the re-sit may also be taken from the department budget and will be discussed with the relevant HOD before the entry is made.

In these circumstances, candidates must pay the re-sit fee before the exam entry can be made. If candidates request a re-sit entry after the board entry deadline, then they must also pay the late entry fee.

### **Pre-exams: roles and responsibilities**

#### **Access arrangements**

##### **SENCo**

Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place 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/her

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 for candidates documents

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/is not provided by the centre

food and drink in exam rooms

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 with the DfE 'yellow label service' or the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of the service

### **Estimated grades**

#### **Headteacher**

- Ensures teaching staff provide estimated grade information to the EO by the internal deadline (where this still may be required by the awarding body)

#### **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**

#### **Headteacher**

- 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 (when a centre is required to make reviews available)

#### **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

#### **Headteacher**

- Ensures teaching staff provide marks for internally assessed components of qualifications to the EO to the internal deadline
- Ensures teaching staff authenticate candidates' work to the awarding body requirements
- Ensures teaching staff provide required samples of work for moderation to the EO to the internal deadline

#### **Exams officer**

- Provides an invigilation handbook or briefs invigilators accordingly
- Deploys invigilators effectively to exam rooms throughout an 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

## **JCQ inspection visit**

### **Exams officer or Senior leader**

- ▣ Accompanies the Inspector **throughout** the course of his or her centre visit, including inspection of the 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
- ▣ Ensures invigilators are aware of the procedure
- ▣ Provides seating plans for exam rooms according to JCQ and awarding body requirements

### **Invigilators**

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

## **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

### **All 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

### **All staff**

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

### **Internal exams**

#### **Exams officer**

- 📁 Prepares for the conduct of internal exams under external conditions
- 📁 Provides a centre exam timetable of subjects and rooms
- 📁 Provides seating plans for exam rooms
- 📁 Requests internal exam papers from teaching staff
- 📁 Arranges invigilation

### **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**

#### **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

### **All staff**

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

### **Internal exams**

#### **Exams officer**

- 📁 Prepares for the conduct of internal exams under external conditions
- 📁 Provides a centre exam timetable of subjects and rooms
- 📁 Provides seating plans for exam rooms
- 📁 Requests internal exam papers from teaching staff
- 📁 Arranges invigilation

### **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
- Applies for approval through AAO where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

#### **Candidate absence**

##### **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

##### **Candidates**

- Are re-charged relevant entry fees for unauthorised absence from exams

#### **Candidate late arrival**

##### **Exams officer**

- 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 late/very late arrival candidates through training
- Ensure that relevant information is recorded on the exam room incident log

#### **Conducting exams**

##### **Headteacher**

- Ensures 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 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 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**

##### **Head teacher**

- Ensures only approved centre staff are present in exam rooms
- Ensures information relating to food and drink that may be allowed in exam rooms is clearly communicated to candidates

##### **Exams officer**

- 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 sole invigilators have an appropriate means of summoning assistance
- 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

##### **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**

##### **Headteacher**

- Ensures any cases of suspected malpractice (by centre staff, candidates, invigilators) are investigated and reported to the awarding body as required
- 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, disruption or disturbance in the exam room, emergency evacuation)

### **Special consideration**

#### **Exams officer**

- 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

## **Internal exams**

### **Exams officer**

- 📁 Briefs invigilators on conducting internal exams
- 📁 Returns candidate scripts to teaching staff for marking

### **Invigilators**

- 📁 Conduct internal exams as briefed by the EO

## **Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities**

### **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 days**

#### **Senior leaders**

- 📁 Identify centre staff who will be involved in the main summer results days and their role
- 📁 Ensures senior 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, 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**

#### **Head of centre**

- 📁 Ensures **internal appeals procedures** are available where candidates disagree with the centre decision
- 📁 not to support an enquiry about results
- 📁 not to appeal against the outcome of an enquiry about results