

Public Examinations Policy

Last Review: November 2023

Next Review: November 2025

Committee: Teaching & Learning

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

1. JCoSS Examination Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments Policy.
2. JCoSS Disability (Exams) Policy
3. JCoSS Public Examination Contingency Policy
4. JCoSS Internal Procedures
5. JCoSS Non-Examined Assessment Policy
6. JCoSS Malpractice Policy
7. Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) *General Regulations for Approved Centres and Instructions for Conducting Examinations* (updated annually) which can be found at www.jcq.org.uk

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1. Introduction and Rationale

The school recognises its duty to ensure students are prepared and entered for appropriate public examinations, so that they can demonstrate their achievement and attainment in line with the expectations of universities and other educational institutions, employers, and the wider community.

JCoSS is fully compliant with the requirements and regulations of the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). This body, together with Awarding Bodies (i.e., Exam Boards), supervises and determines the nature of all public examinations. Their regulations and specifications are typically updated annually, and the school revises its procedures in line with them.

This policy sets out the ways in which this duty and compliance is enacted. It sets out:

- The key personnel involved in the administration of public examination
- Key aspects of the procedure for examination entry
- Key aspects of the administration and operation of examinations
- The school's policy in relation to internally assessed elements of public examinations

2. Key Personnel:

- **The Head of Centre**
 - The Headteacher, who is the officially named person overall responsible for the integrity, security, conduct and management of public examinations at the school.
- **The Examinations Officer**
 - The named contact for the JCQ and Awarding Bodies, responsible for the operational implementation of this policy and for ensuring compliance with the regulations.
- **The SENCo**
 - The postholder formally responsible for overseeing Special Access Arrangements, even though these have no necessary connection to Special Educational Needs. In practice this role is shared with other staff including the Exams Access Coordinator.
- **Lead Practitioner for Vocational Education**
 - The postholder responsible for overseeing the teaching and assessment of vocational qualifications.
- **Heads of Subject**
 - Leaders of individual subjects who lead those in their departments in preparing students for examinations, including where relevant supervising, assessing and moderating controlled assessments.
- **Exam Invigilators**
 - Personnel employed specifically during exam seasons to supervise students sitting exams. These include some Lead Invigilators with additional responsibilities.

3. Examination Entry

- In line with choices of specification agreed by Heads of Subject with the Senior Leadership Team and/or the Lead Practitioner for Vocational Qualifications, the Exams Officer will ensure that the school is registered as necessary with relevant Awarding Bodies.
- Examination entries must be confirmed by January in the year of examination. The Exams Officer supervises the system for checking entry requirements with Heads of Subject, who formally sign off the final lists. Late changes are costly and in general will be charged to the faculty making the change.
- To be entered for public examinations a student should, in most circumstances, have:
 - a) 85% attendance for the duration of the course
 - b) attended relevant trial examinations
 - c) submitted any controlled assessment (where applicable) by the date required
 - d) attended any necessary oral/practical parts of the examinations.

- The criteria above may be waived on medical grounds or in the light of other extenuating circumstances. If any part of a public examination is missed due to illness, the school must be informed on the day and medical evidence may be required. Once entered, students may be withdrawn from an examination only with the consent of an Assistant Headteacher and/or the Lead Practitioner for Vocational Education.
- The Examinations Officer publishes the Examinations Timetables: a general timetable is circulated to staff and parents early in the summer term (and by December for Technical and National students), and individual timetables are issued to students, including details of any clashes and the arrangements for supervision to manage these.

4. Charges

- The school meets the cost of all examinations sat as part of the normal curriculum of the school.
- In instances where there is a request for a student to sit an examination in a subject that is not part of their curriculum, parents will be asked to meet the full costs including entry costs and invigilation fees), in line with the School's Charging Policy However these requests will only be considered in subjects that are already taught at JCoSS and only for students in year 9 and above.
- In line with the School's Charging Policy the Governors reserve the right to charge Parents for all associated costs when a student fails to attend a planned examination.
- There are also charges relating to all reviews of results and access to scripts.

5. Examination Access Arrangements

- The Equality Act 2010 applies to all public examinations and requires an Awarding Body to make reasonable adjustments where a disabled person would be at a substantial disadvantage in undertaking an assessment.
- All JCoSS staff will ensure that any access arrangements and special consideration regulations and guidance are consistent with the law.
- Formal responsibility for assessment and application to the JCQ for Exam Access Arrangements lies with the SENCo. Agreed arrangements are implemented operationally by the Examinations Officer.
- Details of this system can be found in the separate *JCoSS Examination Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments Policy*.

6. Conduct of Examinations

- Students are required to comply with all JCQ regulations as updated from time to time and published on the JCQ website. They will be provided with a copy of these regulations with their exam timetable.
- The school will provide secure paper storage and invigilation/supervision in line with JCQ Guidance.
- It is the responsibility of students to arrive on time for examinations; those who arrive late (including where the delay is due to public or school transport) may not be able to sit the paper; referrals to the Exam Board and/or JCQ may be necessary.
- Procedures in the case of fire, evacuation or invacuation will be in line with school practice and JCQ guidance.
- Procedures in cases of malpractice or alleged malpractice by students or members of staff are as set out in the JCoSS Malpractice policy and JCQ Guidance. Investigations will be conducted by the Headteacher or other senior staff.

7. "Special Consideration" Applications

- Where students consider that their performance in a public examination has been adversely affected in a significant way by factors beyond their control (e.g., bereavement, serious illness,

serious disruption to the examination) the Exams Officer may apply to the Awarding Body for special consideration to be given to their paper.

- Students or parents wishing to discuss a Special Consideration application should contact the Exams Officer. If medical or other documentary evidence is required or would be helpful, this should be supplied to the Exams Officer within a reasonable time of the affected exam/s so that the application can be made within the Awarding Body's time limits.

8. Results and Certificates

- Public exam results will be published on the official results days and issued electronically to students using their school email account.
 - ✓ Results can only be issued to the student or to someone else, who has been formally nominated by the student (this is required even for parents). This permission must be given by the student in writing.
- Results will not be given out over the telephone.
- Certificates will be issued to students in person. Certificates can be collected by someone else nominated in writing by the student.

9. Reviews of Results (RORs)

- There is an externally set deadline for RORs set by awarding bodies for each season. This will be publicised to the candidates before each season. The target for completion is within 20 calendar days of the awarding body receiving the request.
- Any student who wants to have their mark or grade reviewed by an Awarding Body, or to request a copy or return of their original script, should complete the relevant form provided by the Exams Officer and return it to school with the appropriate fee by the published deadline which is currently 20 September in the year of examination.
- Returned scripts and outcomes following RORs will be forwarded by the Examinations Officer to the student and relevant members of staff as soon as they have been received from Awarding Bodies.
- Further details of these procedures can be found in JCQ documentation. It should be noted that once candidates have gained access to original scripts, RORs are no longer available to them.