



Cheshire College
South & West

Examinations Policy

Key Information	
Policy Reference Number	CCSW - EP
ELT Post Responsible for Update and Monitoring	Vice Principal – Innovation, Curriculum and Quality
Published on Website	Yes
Date approved by ELT	08 June 2021
Date Approved by Governor's Committee (if applicable)	17 July 2021
Date of EIA Review	Click or tap to enter a date.
Date of Next Policy Review	01 May 2024

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure the planning and management of examinations is conducted efficiently and in the best interests of candidates as well as to ensure the operation of an efficient examinations system with clear guidelines for all relevant staff.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of everyone involved in the Centre's examination processes to read, understand and implement this policy.
- 1.3 The examinations policy will be reviewed each year considering changes to JCQ Guidelines.
- 1.4 The examinations policy will be reviewed by the Examinations Manager and the Director of Information & Planning
- 1.5 Where references are made to JCQ regulations/guidelines, further details can be found at www.jcq.org.uk

2. Examinations Responsibilities

- 2.1 The Head of Centre:
 - 2.2.1 has overall responsibility for the college as an Examinations Centre and advises on appeals and remarks; and
 - 2.2.2 is responsible for reporting all suspected or actual incidents of malpractice – refer to the JCQ document, Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments: Policies and Procedures and the College document Malpractice & Maladministration Policy.
- 2.2 Examinations Manager:
 - 2.2.3 manages the administration of external examinations and internal examinations where necessary;
 - 2.2.4 advises the senior leadership team, subject and class tutors, and other relevant support staff on annual examinations timetables and procedures as set by the various Awarding Bodies;
 - 2.2.5 oversees the production and distribution to all Centre staff and candidates, of an annual calendar for all examinations in which candidates will be involved and communicates regularly with staff concerning imminent deadlines and events;
 - 2.2.6 ensures that candidates and their parents are informed of and understand those aspects of the exam timetable that will affect them;
 - 2.2.7 checks with teaching staff that the necessary coursework and/or controlled assessments are completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines;
 - 2.2.8 maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their examinations;
 - 2.2.9 receives, checks and stores securely all exam papers and completed scripts and ensures that scripts are dispatched as per the guidelines;
 - 2.2.10 administers access arrangements and makes applications for special consideration following the regulations in the JCQ publications for Access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration;
 - 2.2.11 identifies and manages exam timetable clashes;
 - 2.2.12 accounts for income and expenditures relating to all exam costs/charges;
 - 2.2.13 oversees the examinations invigilators, organises training, and monitoring of a team of examinations invigilators / staff responsible for the conduct of examinations;
 - 2.2.14 ensure candidates' coursework/controlled assessment marks are submitted timely by curriculum staff, and any other material required by the appropriate Awarding Bodies correctly and on schedule;
 - 2.2.15 tracks and dispatches returned coursework/controlled assessments; and
 - 2.2.16 arranges for dissemination of exam results and certificates to candidates and forwards in consultation with the senior management team and any post service requests.
- 2.3 Assistant Principals and Assistant Directors are responsible for:
 - 2.3.1 providing guidance to and pastoral oversight of candidates who are unsure about examinations entries or amendments to entries;

- 2.3.2 accurately completing examination entry and all other mark sheets and adherence to deadlines as set by the Examinations Manager;
- 2.3.3 accurately completing coursework/controlled assessment mark sheets and declaration sheets; and
- 2.3.4 deciding on post-results procedures.
- 2.4 Tutors are responsible for:
 - 2.4.1 supplying information on registrations/entries, coursework and controlled assessments as required by the Assistant Directors, Assistant Principals and Examinations Manager.
- 2.5 The Learner Services Team is responsible for:
 - 2.5.1 identification and testing of candidates' requirements for access arrangements and notifying the Examinations Manager in good time so that they can process any necessary applications in order to gain approval (*if required*); and
 - 2.5.2 working with the Examinations Manager to provide the access arrangements required by candidates in exam rooms.
- 2.6 Lead Invigilator/Invigilators are responsible for:
 - 2.6.1 assisting the Examinations Office in the efficient running of examinations according to JCQ regulations;
 - 2.6.2 collection of exam papers and other material from the Examinations Office Staff before the start of the exam; and
 - 2.6.3 collection of all exam papers in the correct order at the end of the exam and ensuring their return to the Examinations Office Staff.
- 2.7 Candidates are responsible for:
 - 2.7.1 confirmation and signing of entries;
 - 2.7.2 understanding coursework/controlled assessment regulations and signing a declaration that authenticates the coursework as their own; and
 - 2.7.3 ensuring the conduct themselves in all examinations according to the JCQ regulations.

3. Qualifications Offered

- 3.1 The qualifications offered at the Centre are decided by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and the Curriculum Planning Group.
- 3.2 The subjects offered in any academic year may be found in the College's published prospectus or similar documents for that year. If there is to be a change of specification for the next year, the Examinations Office must be informed by end of June in the preceding year.
- ~~3.3~~ Informing the Examinations Office of changes to a specification is the responsibility of the Assistant Directors.
- 1.6 Decisions on whether a candidate should be entered for a particular subject will be taken by Tutors in consultation with the Assistant Directors and Assistant Principal.

4. Exam Series

- 4.1 Internal examinations (mock or trial examinations) and assessments, where applicable are scheduled in January and/or June of the academic year, mock examinations may be scheduled at other times as required by the curriculum area and will be held under external examination conditions.
- 4.2 External examinations and assessments are scheduled in November, January and May/June. There may be external examinations at other times depending on subject.
- 4.3 The Centre does offer some assessments on an on-demand basis. If offered, on-demand assessments can be scheduled only in windows agreed between tutors and the Examinations Manager.

5. Examination Timetables

- 5.1 Once confirmed, the Examinations Manager will circulate the exam timetables for external examinations before each series begins.

6. Entries, Entry Details and Late Entries

- 6.1 Candidates or parents/carers cannot request a subject entry, change of level or withdrawal.
- 6.2 The Centre does not accept entries from private candidates.
- 6.3 The Centre does not act as an examinations centre for other organisations.
- 6.4 Entry deadlines are circulated to Assistant Directors and Curriculum Teams via email, briefing meetings, the College intranet.
- 6.5 Assistant Directors and Curriculum Teams will provide estimated entry information to the Examinations Office to meet JCQ and Awarding Body deadlines.
- 6.6 Entries and amendments made after an Awarding Organisation's deadline (*i.e., late*) require the authorisation, in writing, of Assistant Principal.
- 6.7 GCSE re-sits/retakes are allowed if agreed with Assistant Directors.
- 6.8 A Level re-sits/retakes are allowed for current college learners only.
- 6.9 Functional skills re-sits/retakes are allowed for current college learners only.
- 6.10 Re-sit decisions will be made by tutors in consultation with learners and Assistant Directors.

7. Examination Fees

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 The Examinations Manager will publish the deadline for action well in advance for each examination series.
- 7.3 Re-sit fees are paid by the candidates.

8. Equality Legislation

- 8.1 All Examination Centre staff must ensure that they meet the requirements of any equality legislation.
- 8.2 The Centre will comply with the legislation, including making reasonable adjustments to the service that that they provide candidates in accordance with requirements defined by the legislation, Awarding Bodies, and JCQ. This is the responsibility of the Examinations Manager.

9. Access Arrangements

- 9.1 The Learner Services Team 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/examinations.
- 9.2 A candidate's access arrangements requirement is determined by the Learner Services Team.
- 9.3 Ensuring there is appropriate evidence for a candidate's access arrangement is the responsibility of the subject tutors.
- 9.4 Submitting completed access arrangement applications to the Awarding Bodies is the responsibility of the Examinations Office.
- 9.5 Rooming for access arrangement candidates will be arranged by the Examinations Office.
- 9.6 Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates, as defined in the JCQ access arrangements regulations, will be organised by the Examinations Manager.

10. Overseas Candidates

- 10.1 Managing overseas candidates is the responsibility of the International Office and curriculum subject tutors, including timely and appropriate communications with the Examinations Office.

11. Examination Contingency planning

- 11.1 Contingency planning for examinations administration is the responsibility of the Examinations Manager and Director of Information & Planning.

12. Aims of the Contingency Plan

- 12.1 The College Contingency Plan is designed to ensure consistency of response in the event of major disruption to the examinations system affecting significant numbers of candidates across several Awarding Bodies.
- 12.2 Implementing the plan will safeguard the interests of candidates while maintaining the integrity of the examination system and safeguarding standards.
- 12.3 It will be implemented only in the event of major disruption to the system and any actions taken will be subject to the advice of the official agencies dealing with the specific circumstances being faced, for example the police, Environment Agency or Health Protection Agency.
- 12.4 In the event of a crisis being declared, timely, accurate information will be provided to Awarding Bodies, learners, parents and the public detailing any action that may need to be taken regarding examinations.

13. Future Actions

- 13.1 The College Contingency Plan is a living document and is subject to regular reviews and amendments by the involved parties to ensure it continually represents the latest experience and expertise to ensure appropriate responses to disruption to examinations.
- 13.2 If any situation causing disruption to the system escalates to a point where current contingencies are no longer sufficient, the College Critical Incident Planning process will be followed.

14. Candidates Unable to Take Examinations because of Crisis (College Remains Open)

- 14.1 Candidates are only eligible for 'special consideration' if they have a medical certificate or have been advised by the College not to attend and examination. If a candidate chooses not to sit an examination, they should be aware that special consideration rules will not apply. The College will make sure that candidates are clear about the requirements.

Recommended Contingency	Criteria for Implementation	Other Possible Actions
The College will apply for special consideration for candidates where they have met the minimum requirements	Candidates are unable to take examinations as normal	The College will offer candidates an opportunity to sit examination missed at next available series

15. The College is Closed During the Examination Period

Recommended Contingency	Criteria for Implementation	Other Possible Actions
The College will make every possibility to open for examinations only	If The College is closed	The College will identify and use alternative venues The College will offer candidates an opportunity to sit examination missed at next available series

16. Key Examinations Staff Are Unable to Get to Examination Venue

Recommended Contingency	Criteria for Implementation	Other Possible Actions
The College SLT will identify designated personnel to cover in this eventuality	If the Examinations Manager is unable to get to the College.	The College will identify and nominated key personnel The College has two Examinations Officers in post and Examinations Administrators all trained for this eventuality, SLT would oversee this

17. Disruption to the Collection of Completed Examination Papers

Recommended Contingency	Criteria for Implementation	Other Possible Actions
The College will seek advice from normal collection agency The College will ensure secure storage of completed examination papers awaiting collection	Normal collection arrangements have failed	The College will investigate use of alternative carriers and ensure proof of despatch

18. The College is Closed on Results Day

Recommended Contingency	Criteria for Implementation	Other Possible Actions
The College will decide to access results from an alternative site or electronically as appropriate	If the College is forced to close	The College will identify and use an alternative site or electronically as appropriate

19. The College Loses Accreditation or Accreditation Expires for a Qualification

Recommended Contingency	Criteria for Implementation	Other Possible Actions
The College will make arrangements to ensure the learner is not disadvantaged and that the qualification or equivalent is gained. All associated costs will be The College's responsibility	If qualification approval expires or accreditation is removed	The College will seek to regain accreditation or to identify and use an alternative Awarding Body for the same qualification type and level

20. Managing Invigilators

- 20.1 In most instances College staff will be used to invigilate examinations.
- 20.2 Invigilators will be used for external examinations and controlled assessments.
- 20.3 Invigilators are timetabled, trained, and briefed by the Examinations Manager in line with JCQ Guidance and any Awarding Body specific detail. Examinations staff are available to support and start examinations where necessary. The Examinations Office will conduct a training session for all newly appointed invigilators. Further training may also be conducted at any point deemed necessary by the Examinations Office, e.g., if a new policy or procedure is introduced, or to ensure invigilators remain conversant with existing policies and procedures.

21. Responsibilities of Invigilators

- 21.1 All invigilators must:
 - 1.6.1 attend all allocated shifts (*except in the case of emergency*);
 - 1.6.2 remain vigilant and attentive - do not read, check emails or phones etc in the exam venue unless expressly permitted by the Examinations Office unless seeking help/support from the Examinations Office;
 - 1.6.3 remain quiet and calm and do not disturb learners unnecessarily;
 - 1.6.4 treat all learners fairly and without discrimination;
 - 1.6.5 undertake no action that would confer an advantage or disadvantage upon any learner;
 - 1.6.6 maintain the anonymity of exam scripts;
 - 1.6.7 maintain the security and confidentiality of exam materials;
 - 1.6.8 be vigilant for any suspected academic misconduct; and
 - 1.6.9 complete any paperwork required by the Exams Office / Awarding Body.

22. Malpractice

- 22.1 The Head of Centre in consultation with the Examinations Manager is responsible for investigating suspected malpractice. Please see the Malpractice and Maladministration Policy.

23. Examination Days

- 23.1 The Examinations Manager will book all exam rooms after liaison with other users and make the question papers, other exam stationery, and materials available for the invigilator.
- 23.2 Estates Teams are responsible for setting up the allocated rooms and will be advised of requirements in advance.
- 23.3 The Lead Invigilator or Examinations staff will start and finish all examinations in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- 23.4 Subject staff maybe present at the start of the exam to assist with identification of candidates but must not enter the exam room. Any staff present must be in accordance with the rules defined by JCQ concerning who is allowed and what they can do.
- 23.5 In practical examinations, subject teachers' availability will be in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- 23.6 Examination 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 subject tutors in accordance with JCQ's recommendations and no later than 24 hours after candidates have completed it.
- 23.7 After an exam, the Examinations Manager will arrange for the safe dispatch of completed examination scripts to Awarding Bodies, working in conjunction with examinations administrators.

24. Candidates

- 24.1 The Examinations Manager will provide written information to candidates in advance of each exam series.
- 24.2 The Centre's published rules on acceptable dress and behaviour always apply. Candidates' personal belongings remain their own responsibility and the Centre accepts no liability for their loss or damage.
- 24.3 In an examination 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.
- 24.4 Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Candidates are expected to stay for the full examination.
- 24.5 Note: Candidates who leave an examination room, to use the toilet for example, must be always accompanied by an appropriate member of staff.
- 24.6 The Examinations Manager/Lead Invigilator is responsible for handling late or absent candidates on the examination day.

25. Clash Candidates

- 25.1 The Examinations Manager will be responsible as necessary for organising supervision, identifying a secure venue and arranging overnight supervision.

26. Special Consideration

- 26.1 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 Examinations Manager to that effect.
- 26.2 The candidate must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence within JCQ published number of days of the exam.
- 26.3 The Examinations Manager will make a special consideration application to the relevant Awarding Body within 10 days of the exam.

27. Internal Assessment

- 27.1 It is the duty of Assistant Directors to ensure that all internal assessment is ready for dispatch at the correct time.
- 27.2 The Examinations Manager will keep a record of each dispatch, including the recipient details and the date and time sent.
- 27.3 If required, marks for all internally assessed work are provided to the Examinations Office by the tutors/Assistant Directors.

28. Results and Certificates

- 28.1 Candidates will receive individual result slips or certificates for their results in one or more of the following ways:
 - 28.1.1 in person at the Centre;
 - 28.1.2 by post to their home address;
 - 28.1.3 collected and signed for; or
 - 28.1.4 electronically via their College email address.

- 28.2 The results slip will be in the form of a Centre produced document and show provisional results only.
- 28.3 The provision of staffing on results days is the responsibility of the Examinations Manager.
- 28.4 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.
- 28.5 The Centre retains certificates for 1 year and then they are returned to Awarding Body or destroyed.
- 28.6 Replacement certificates can be requested from the Awarding Body at cost to the learner.

29. Enquiries About Results (EAR)

- 29.1 EARs may be requested by Centre staff or the candidate following the release of results.
- 29.2 A request for a re-mark or clerical check requires the signed consent of the candidate, a request for a re-moderation of internally assessed work may be submitted with the consent of the group of candidates.
- 29.3 The cost of EARs will be paid by the candidate.
- 29.4 All processing of EARs will be the responsibility of the examinations Office following the JCQ guidance.

30. Access to Scripts (ATS)

- 30.1 After the release of results, candidates may ask subject staff to request the return of written exam papers within published deadline number of the receipt of results.
- 30.2 Centre staff may also request scripts for investigation or for teaching purposes. For the latter, the consent of candidates must be obtained.
- 30.3 Re-marks cannot be applied for once an original script has been returned.
- 30.4 The cost of EARs will be paid by the candidate.
- 30.5 Processing of requests for ATS will be the responsibility of the examinations Office.

31. Appeals

- 31.1 All Appeals are conducted in line with specific Awarding Body instruction. Candidates should refer to the Academic Appeals Policy for guidance on how to progress and appeal.