Examinations Policy (Exams)

Date reviewed	September 2026
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Next review date	October 2027
Reviewed by	Academic Standards, SEND and Educational Trips Committee

Signed:..... Dated: 22.10.2026

Chair of Governors

Signed:..... Dated: 22.10.2026

Principal

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Key staff involved in the exams policy

Role	Name(s)
Head of centre	**Francis Galbraith**
Exams Manager line manager (Senior Leader)	**Sarah Thomas**
Exams Manager	**Jodi Henderson**
SENDCo	**Claire Johnstone**
SLT member(s)	**Leanne Chapman**
	Will Atkinson
	Sarah Thomas
	Vicky Andrews
	Sailesh Roopnarain
	Mike Birchall

Purpose of the policy

The centre is committed to ensuring that the examinations and assessments management and administration process is run effectively and efficiently and in compliance with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements. This exam policy will ensure that:

- all aspects of the centre's exam process is documented supporting the centre's contingency plan and other relevant exams-related policies and procedures
- the workforce is well informed and supported
- all centre staff involved in the process clearly understand their roles and responsibilities
- all exams and assessments are conducted in according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions, thus maintaining the integrity and security of the examination/assessment system at all times
- exam candidates understand the process and what is expected of them.

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure ways of working in the centre 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 via e-mail and will be available on the shared drive and the school website.

Roles and responsibilities overview

(GR 2)
The **head of centre** is the individual who is accountable to the awarding bodies for ensuring that the centre is always compliant with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/ assessments. This individual must have the authority to deploy the necessary resources to ensure that the centre is always compliant with published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements.

The Exams Manager is the person appointed by the head of centre to act on behalf of, and be the main point of contact for, the centre in matters relating to the general administration of awarding body examinations and assessments.

The head of centre cannot also be the Exams Manager. A head of centre and an Exams Manager are two distinct and separate roles.

The head of centre and/or Exams Manager may operate across more than one centre. In such cases the head of centre must ensure there is suitable senior leadership team support in place, so they can meet their obligations across all centres for which they are responsible. The head of centre must ensure that these arrangements are covered by their examination contingency plan.

Head of centre responsibilities

(GR 1)
Heads of centre must familiarise themselves with the entire contents of the current General Regulations for Approved Centres (GR) document along with senior leadership teams and exam office personnel.

Heads of centre must ensure that relevant members of staff respond promptly to requests and/or actions raised by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service. Failure to do so could result in the centre not receiving or being able to access question papers and other confidential assessment materials. Ultimately, awarding bodies could withdraw approval of the centre.

Where an action letter is issued by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, the head of centre must ensure that arrangements are put in place within the centre, in accordance with the timeframes and process set out in the action letter, to prevent any recurrence of the issue(s).

Heads of centre must ensure that relevant members of staff respond promptly to requests for information from awarding bodies relating to the administration and conducting of examinations/assessments.

It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that all staff comply with the instructions in the Instructions for conducting examinations **document**. Failure to do so may constitute malpractice as defined in the JCQ document Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures. GR 5.1)

The head of centre must ensure:

- compliance with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to deliver the qualification(s)
- appropriate controls are in place which ensure accurate data is submitted to the awarding bodies by the required deadlines, e.g. registrations, entries, learner claims, centre-assessed marks or modified papers
- all reasonable steps are taken to respond promptly to requests for information or documentation made by an awarding body or regulatory authority

Head of centre

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to current JCQ documents including:
    - General Regulations for Approved Centres (GR)
    - Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE)
    - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA)
    - Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures (SMPP)
    - Instructions for conducting coursework (ICC)
    - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (GCSE specifications) (NEA)
    - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (Vocational and Technical Qualifications((NEA VTQs)
    - Notice to centres – Informing candidates of their centre-assessed marks
    - Plagiarism in assessments – Guidance for Teachers/Assessors
    - A guide to the special consideration process (SC)
    - AI Use in Assessments: Your role in protecting the integrity of qualifications
    - Guidance for centres on cyber security
- Ensures the centre has appropriate accommodation at the registered address to support the size of the cohorts being taught, including appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements and/or practical assessments
- Where/if using a third party to deliver any part of a qualification (including the assessments or the administration) at the centre:
    - maintains oversight of, and responsibility for, the delivery and administration of the qualification in accordance with JCQ regulations, awarding body requirements and the regulator's Conditions of Recognition
    - has in place a robust written agreement with the third party (unless exclusions apply) that includes provisions which ensure that qualifications are delivered in a way that complies with their agreement with the awarding body, to ensure there is a shared understanding of the arrangement and will manage the risk of failure by the third party to deliver the expected service

    - ensures that a copy of the written agreement is available for inspection if requested by the awarding body
    - monitors delivery by the third party to maintain compliance with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements, ensuring the security and integrity of examinations and assessments
    - ensures sufficient managerial and other resources are in place to resolve any issues

- Ensures that relevant members of staff respond promptly to requests and/or actions raised by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, understanding that failure to do so could result in penalties (see National Centre Number Register and other information requirements section)
- Ensures that relevant members of staff respond promptly to requests for information from awarding bodies relating to the administration and conducting of examinations/assessments
- Ensures that the centre promptly reports any incidents to the relevant awarding body/bodies which might compromise any aspect of assessment delivery such as a cyber-attack
- Ensures other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials are briefed on the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials
- Ensures members of centre staff do not forward emails and letters from awarding body or JCQ personnel without prior consent to third parties or upload such correspondence onto social media sites and applications (including third party applications)
- Ensures members of centre staff do not advise parents/candidates to contact awarding bodies/JCQ directly nor provide them with the names, addresses and contact details (including email addresses) of examiners, moderators, external verifiers and any other awarding body examining/assessment personnel/JCQ personnel

Resilience and contingency arrangements

(GR 3.26-36)

The centre must ensure they are familiar with the regulators' guidance and/or awarding body guidance on ensuring resilience in the qualifications system. Centres should consider putting in place a process for gathering and securely retaining evidence of candidate performance in line with the published guidance.

In the unlikely event that the government determines that examinations cannot go ahead, the centre will need evidence of candidate assessment performance, such as mock examinations, to enable alternative methods of awarding grades.

The centre must have in place, and at all times comply with, an up to date written contingency plan.

The contingency plan must cover all aspects of examination/assessment administration and delivery. Senior leaders must have robust contingency arrangements in place that will minimise the risk to examination/assessment administration and delivery and any adverse impact on candidates.

The plan must cover the following scenarios:

- the head of centre, relevant senior leader(s) with oversight of examination and assessment administration, SENDCo, Exams Manager or any other key staff essential to the examination process being absent at a critical stage of the examination cycle
- the potential impact of other events such as flooding which could lead to all or parts of the centre becoming unavailable
- potential issues with the centre's IT systems.

As part of it's contingency plan the centre must identify an alternative site or alternative sites which can be used if examinations cannot be conducted at the registered address. Larger centres may require more than one potential alternative site or different sites for different Year Groups.

The centre must have at least one senior member of staff (senior designated contact) who is available to manage emergency requests from awarding bodies that are results related during the summer holidays. However, a number of contacts can be provided to reduce the risk of this falling on one individual throughout the summer holidays.

The centre must ensure where candidates' work is produced electronically it is backed-up and should consider the contingency of candidates' work being backed-up on two separate devices, including one off-site back-up via the Cloud. The centre must implement appropriate security arrangements which protect candidates' work in the event of IT system corruption and cyber-attacks.

Cyber security

(GR 3.37-38)

The head of centre must ensure there are procedures in place to maintain the security of user accounts by:

- ensuring that all members of centre staff who access awarding bodies' online systems undertake annual cyber security training
  The training must include:
  - the importance of creating strong, unique passwords for all accounts
  - keeping all account details strictly confidential
  - the critical role of Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) in protecting against unauthorised access
  - how to properly set up and use MFA for both centre and awarding bodies' systems
  - an awareness of all types of social engineering/phishing attempts
  - the importance of staff quickly reporting any suspicious activity, events, incidents and encouraging a safe and supportive reporting culture.

  This record could take the form of a certificate, a paper checklist, a spreadsheet-based checklist or a Learning Management System (LMS) report.

- developing and maintaining a comprehensive cyber security policy for the centre. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) provides resources to assist centres in creating such policies
- implementing and enforcing robust security measures, including:
  - where available, MFA must be used for all accounts and systems containing exam-related information, including those that interface between awarding body and centre systems, to enhance security and protect sensitive data. Where MFA is not available on the centre's systems, an equivalent multi-layered security approach must be in place. For example, strong log-in controls, access and monitoring controls and secure storage so that exam-related data is protected in line with cyber security best practice.
  - regularly reviewing and updating security settings to align with current best practices
- updating any passwords that may have been exposed
- setting up secure account recovery options
- reviewing and managing connected applications
- monitoring accounts and regularly reviewing account access, including removing access when no longer required

- ensuring authorised members of staff securely access awarding bodies' online systems in line with awarding body regulations regarding cyber security and the JCQ document *Guidance for centres on cyber security*
- Authorised staff will have access, where necessary, to a device which complies with awarding bodies' MFA requirements.
- reporting any actual or suspected compromise of an awarding body's online systems immediately to the relevant awarding body

Cyber security policy

Goldington Academy's *Cyber Security Policy* is available on the school website.

Recruitment, selection, training and support

It is the responsibility of the **head of centre** to ensure that the centre:

- Retains a workforce of an appropriate size and competence, including sufficient managerial and other appropriate resources, to undertake the delivery and administration of the qualification and assessments as required by an awarding body. This includes taking reasonable steps to ensure occupational competence where this is required for the assessment of specific qualifications
- The centre's contingency planning must include succession arrangements for members of staff involved in examination and assessment administration.
- Provides fully qualified/assessors for the verification and marking of centre-assessed components
- Ensures that teaching staff do not use AI tools as the sole or primary means of marking candidates' work. Teachers must review all the work in its entirety and determine the mark it warrants using their own professional judgement regardless of the outcomes of an AI tool. The teacher remains responsible for the mark/grade awarded. This is subject to any further guidance published by the regulators.
- Enables the relevant senior leader(s), teachers, the Exams Manager (EM) and the SENDCo to receive appropriate training and support to facilitate the effective delivery of examinations and assessments within the centre, and ensure compliance with the published JCQ and awarding body regulations
- Ensures the SENCo (or equivalent role), the centre's appointed access arrangements assessor and the Exams Manager undertake regular CPD, such as attending an annual update course
- Ensures that the SENCo (or equivalent role) understands the JCQ document Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments and is given sufficient time to manage the access arrangements process within the centre
- Ensures that the Exams Manager understands relevant awarding body and JCQ documentation and has sufficient time to perform their role
- Ensures that any member(s) of the senior leadership team who are responsible for examination administration familiarise themselves with relevant awarding body and JCQ documentation (This will ensure the Exams Manager and the SENDCo are supported as well as ensuring effective centre decision making in line with the published regulations)
- Ensures that teachers understand the relevant awarding body and JCQ documentation for the qualifications they are delivering to ensure they are delivered in line with the relevant regulations

External and Internal governance arrangements

- Has in place a written escalation process should the head of centre, or a member of the senior leadership team with oversight of examination and assessment administration, be absent
- Has in place a member of the senior leadership team who has a good working knowledge of the examination system, will provide effective line management support and supervision of the Exams Manager to ensure that the integrity and security of examinations and assessments is maintained throughout an examination series
- Can confirm to an awarding body, the external governance arrangements so that the awarding body has confidence in the integrity of centre activities such as the delivery of qualifications and the conducting of examinations and assessments
- Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the Exams Manager
- Makes sure that a teacher, a teaching assistant, a tutor or a senior member of centre staff who teaches the subject being examined or a Learning Support Assistant who has supported one or more candidates, is not an invigilator during an examination

Delivery of qualifications

- Delivers qualifications, as required by the awarding body and in accordance with relevant equality legislation. This includes but is not limited to ensuring that qualifications are made available to all candidates capable of undertaking them and seeking and implementing reasonable adjustments for disabled candidates
- Enables candidates to receive sufficient and up to date practical experience, or relevant training where required by the subject

Public liability

- Complies with local health and safety rules which are in place and that the centre is adequately covered for public liability claims

Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments

(GR 5.3)

- Has in place arrangements to co-ordinate and standardise all marking of centre-assessed components and to ensure that candidates' centre-assessed work is produced, authenticated and marked, or assessed and quality assured in accordance with the awarding bodies' instructions (This applies to both internal and private candidates)
- Submits, in accordance with awarding bodies' instructions, information they may reasonably require in relation to their examinations and assessments, returning all subject-specific forms by the required date

Security of assessment materials

- Takes all reasonable steps to maintain the integrity of the examinations/assessments, including the security of all assessment materials:
    - Ensuring that assessment materials supplied to the centre by the awarding body, including pre-release materials and set assignments, and information about their

contents are only shared with appropriate centre staff and candidates and are not shared outside the centre
    - reporting immediately to the awarding body/bodies any potential or actual breach of examination or assessment materials
- Makes arrangements to:
    - receive, check and store question papers and examination material safely and securely at all times and for as long as required in accordance with the current JCQ document *Instructions for conducting examinations*
    - access, download, print (where appropriate) and store electronic assessment materials safely and securely at all times in accordance with section 4 of the current JCQ document *Instructions for conducting examinations*
    - issue material received from the awarding bodies to staff and candidates, and notify them of any advice and instructions relevant to the examinations and assessments
    - give candidates access to relevant pre-release materials on, or as soon as possible after, the date specified by the awarding bodies

National Centre Number Register and other information requirements

(GR 5.3)

- Provides contact details as follows:
    - a physical address to which all examination and assessment materials will be despatched – this must be the registered address of the centre
    - a landline telephone number – this must be the number of the main office/ switchboard of the centre
    - a contact email address for communications – this must be the email address of the person or team responsible for the administration of examinations (Personal email addresses such as 'Yahoo', 'Hotmail' and 'Gmail' are not acceptable) Note: Except for WJEC, if this is a shared email account it must not be used to access awarding body secure websites
    - the name of the head of centre and their email address
    - senior designated contact details (this might include a personal mobile number and/or email address) (These must be the contact details of someone who can be reached in an emergency if the centre is closed over the summer and who can mobilise resources to respond to the issue)
- Completes the National Centre Number Register annual update by the end of October every year even if there are no changes to centre details
    - informs the National Centre Number Register Team immediately (email address – ncn@ocr.org.uk) if any changes occur after the National Centre Number Register annual update has taken place (This must be on centre headed stationery which can be sent as an email attachment including the signature of the head of centre)
    - informs the National Centre Number Register Team (email address – ncn@ocr.org.uk) of any changes to relevant contact details no later than 6 weeks prior to moving to a new address or re-locating of the secure storage facility (This must be on centre headed stationery which can be sent as an email attachment)
    - informs the National Centre Number Register Team immediately of any other changes in circumstances that could affect the centre's status
    - completes the National Centre Number Register Head of Centre Declaration by the end of October every year confirming they are aware of and adhering to the latest versions of the JCQ regulations
    - responds to any other reasonable requests made by the National Centre Number Register Team

- (GR 1.9) Understands that the responsibility for completing the Head of Centre declaration survey cannot be delegated to a member of the senior leadership team or the Exams Manager, and acknowledges that failure to respond to the NCNR annual update, the head of centre's declaration, will result in:
    - the centre status being suspended
    - the centre not being able to submit examination entries
    - the centre not receiving or being able to access question papers

  and ultimately, awarding bodies could withdraw their approval of the centre

Centre inspections

(GR 5.3)

- Co-operates with the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, an awarding body or a regulatory authority when subject to an inspection, an investigation, an unannounced visit or any requests for information within the stipulated timeframe
- Allows all venues used for examinations and assessments, paperwork and secure storage facilities to be open to inspection
- Understands the JCQ Centre Inspector will identify themselves with a formal identity document and **must** be accompanied throughout their tour of the premises, including inspection of the centre's secure storage facility

Policies available for inspection

- Has in place the following written policies for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually by a member of the senior leadership team and communicated within the centre:
    - a child protection/safeguarding policy, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements

Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy (Exams)

Goldington Academy's *Child protection and Safeguarding Policy* is available on the school website.

*It is the responsibility of the **head of centre** to ensure that his/her centre has in place the following policies available for inspection, a written child protection/safeguarding policy, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements (GR 5.3)*

    - a complaints policy

Complaints policy

The Goldington Academy Complaints policy is available on the school website.

"The centre will draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers their written complaints and appeals procedure which will cover general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification." [GR 5.8]

    - a conflicts of interest policy

Conflicts of interest

(GR 5.3)

- Manages conflicts of interest by informing the awarding bodies before the published deadline for entries for each examination series of any potential conflict of interest where:
    - any members of centre staff who are taking a qualification at this centre which includes internally-assessed components/units
    - any members of centre staff who are teaching and preparing members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) for qualifications which include internally-assessed components/units, (This requirement also extends to centre staff conducting internally assessed or externally assessed Speaking, Listening or Oracy components / units)
- maintains internal records (that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected) of all instances where:
    - exams office staff have members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) being entered for examinations and assessments either at this centre or other centres
    - centre staff are taking qualifications at this centre which do not include internally assessed components/units
    - centre staff are taking qualifications at other centres
- Retains records of all conflicts of interest including details of the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected (The records may be inspected by a JCQ Centre Inspector and/or awarding body staff. They might be requested in the event of concerns being reported to an awarding body. The records must be retained until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later)
- *Notes that entering members of centre staff for qualifications at their own centre must be as a last resort in cases where the member of centre staff is unable to find another centre, and ensures:
    - proper protocols are in place to prevent the member of centre staff having access to examination materials prior to the examination and that other centre staff are briefed on maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the examination materials
    - during the examination series the member of centre staff is treated in the same way as any other candidate entered for that examination, does not have access to examination materials and does not receive any preferential treatment

Conflict of interest policy

The Goldington Academy Conflict of interest policy is available on the school website.

- a data protection policy

Data Protection Policy

Goldington Academy's Data Protection Policy is available on the school website. Policies available for inspection and (5.8) Candidate information Refer to GR (section 5.3) Consideration may also need to be given to the centre's policy on sharing candidates' results and other exams related information with those with parental responsibility and third parties

Legislation on sharing information
Under the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 and the Data Protection Act 2018, children and young adults can assume control over their personal information and restrict access to it from the age of 13. This suggests that candidate consent should be sought to share results or other exams-related information with a third party.
Other legislation and guidance may need to be taken into account regarding sharing information with parents, as example information from the DfE for schools regarding parental responsibility and school reports on pupil performance:

- Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility, last updated 24 August 2023 to include www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility/understanding-and-dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility
- School reports on pupil performance: guidance for headteachers www.gov.uk/guidance/school-reports-on-pupil-performance-guide-for-headteachers

Publication of exam results
Refer to ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) Schools, universities and colleges information and Exam results

- an equalities policy

Equalities policy (exams)

- a written contingency plan which covers all aspects of examination/ assessment administration and delivery

Exam contingency plan

The Goldington Academy Equalities (Exams) Policy is available on the school website.

Also refer to GR (5.4) **Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments**

The Goldington Academy Exam Contingency plan is available on the school website.

- an internal appeals procedure which must cover at least appeals regarding internal assessment decisions, access to post-result services and appeals, and centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration with reference to the JCQ document *A guide to the awarding organisations' appeals process*

Internal appeals procedures

The Goldington Academy Internal Appeals Procedure is available on the school website.
Also refer to GR (5.7) Centre assessed work, (5.8) Candidate information, (5.13) Post-results services and appeals

- a written malpractice policy which covers all qualifications delivered by the centre with reference to the JCQ document *Suspected Malpractice Policies and Procedures*. The policy must detail how candidates are informed and advised to avoid committing malpractice in examinations/assessments, how suspected malpractice issues should be escalated within the centre and reported to the relevant awarding body. It must also acknowledge the use of AI (e.g. what AI is, when it may be used and how it should be acknowledged, the risks of using AI, what AI misuse is and how this will be treated as malpractice).

Malpractice policy

The Goldington Academy Malpractice policy is available on the school website.

Also refer to the JCQ document **AI Use in Assessments: Your role in protecting the integrity of qualifications** (http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice) with reference to the centre's malpractice/plagiarism policy to acknowledge the use of AI (e.g. what it is, the risks of using it, what AI misuse is, how this will be treated as malpractice, when it may be used and how it should be acknowledged)

Also refer to Information for candidates - **AI (Artificial Intelligence and assessments)** (www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice)

- a policy regarding the management of non-examination assessments including controlled assessments and coursework, which includes details on how candidates' work will be authenticated with reference to the JCQ documents *Instructions of conducting coursework and Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments*

Non-examination Assessment (including controlled assessments and coursework) Policy

Goldington Academy's Non-examination Assessment policy is available on the school website. Also refer to GR (5.7) **Centre assessed work,** NEA (1)

Also refer to the JCQ document **AI Use in Assessments: Your role in protecting the integrity of qualifications** (http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice)

- a whistleblowing policy

Whistleblowing Policy (Exams)

Goldington Academy's Whistleblowing policy is available on the school website.

- a policy on the use of word processors in examinations

Word Processor Policy (Exams)

Goldington Academy's Word Processor policy is available on the school website

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

(GR 5.4)

The head of centre/senior leadership team will:

- appoint a SENDCo, or an equivalent member of staff, to coordinate the access arrangements process within the centre and determine appropriate arrangements for candidates with learning difficulties and disabilities, those for whom English is an additional language and those with a temporary illness or injury
- ensure that learners have the correct information and advice on their selected qualification(s) in an accessible format and that the qualification(s) meet their needs (The recruitment process must include the centre assessing each potential learner and making justifiable and professional judgements about the learner's potential to complete the examinations/assessments successfully and achieve the qualification(s). The centre's assessment must identify, where appropriate, the support that will be made available to the learner to facilitate access to examinations/assessments)
- recognise their duties towards disabled candidates, including private candidates, ensuring compliance with all aspects of the Equality Act 2010†, particularly Section 20 (7) (This must include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, to submit applications for reasonable adjustments through the access arrangements process and to make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates. Where the centre is under a duty to make a reasonable adjustment, the centre must not charge a disabled candidate any additional fee in relation to the adjustment or aid)
  †or any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect
- ensure that the SENDCo undertakes the necessary and appropriate steps to gather a picture of need and demonstrate normal way of working for a private candidate such as a distance learner or a home educated student (The centre, where required, must lead on the assessment process. The candidate must be assessed by the centre's appointed assessor. In some instances, depending on their needs, the candidate may have to be assessed away from the centre, for example at home. The centre must comply with the obligation to identify the need for, request and implement access arrangements)
- ensure that where a candidate with a learning difficulty requires an assessment of their needs, they are assessed by an appropriately qualified assessor as appointed by the head of centre (Evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) must be obtained before they assess candidates and must be held on file for inspection)
- have a written process in place to check the qualification(s) of their assessor(s) but that the correct procedures are followed, as in Chapter 7 of the JCQ document *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*

Access Arrangements Policy

Goldington Academy's Access Arrangements policy is available on the school website

- assist the awarding bodies in the discharge of their duty to make reasonable adjustments by requesting access arrangements, where required, and fully support the SENDCo in effectively implementing those arrangements once approved

Malpractice

(GR 5.11)

The centre will:

- take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after assessments have taken place

- inform the awarding immediately of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, by completing the appropriate documentation
- as required by an awarding body, ensures evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) is gathered in accordance with the current JCQ document *Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures* and provide such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require
- (GR 6.2) ensure any person involved in administering, teaching or completing examinations/assessments is advised that where malpractice is suspected, or alleged, personal data about them will be provided to the awarding body (or bodies) whose examinations/assessments are involved. Personal data about them may also be shared with other awarding bodies, the qualifications regulator or professional bodies in accordance with the JCQ document *Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures* (Centres are required to identify and have in place a lawful basis for sharing such information and maintain relevant privacy notices as required by data protection legislation)

Personal data

(GR 6.6, 6.8)

It is the responsibility of centres to inform candidates of the processing that the centre undertakes. For example, that the centre will provide relevant personal data including name, date of birth, gender to the awarding bodies for the purpose of examining and awarding qualifications (relevant privacy notices should be provided to candidates).

Materials which are submitted by candidates for assessment may include any form of written work, audio and visual materials, computer programs and data ("Student Materials"). Awarding bodies may use the Student Materials to evaluate candidates' performance in the relevant assessment. They may also use the Student Materials for other purposes as outlined in their privacy policies and in accordance with their terms. Candidates should be directed to the relevant awarding body's privacy notice if they require further information about how their Student Materials may be used by the awarding body.

Where a centre or third party is in possession of any Student Materials for the purposes of candidate assessment, the Student Materials will be held on behalf of the awarding body.

Exams Manager

- Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ documents including:
  - General Regulations for Approved Centres
  - Instructions for conducting examinations
  - Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures
  - Post-Results Services (PRS)
  - A guide to the special consideration process
- Completes/submits the National Centre Number Register annual update (the register is administered on behalf of the JCQ awarding bodies AQA, Cambridge OCR, CCEA, City & Guilds, NCFE, Pearson and WJEC by Cambridge OCR https://ocr.org.uk/administration/ncn-annual-update/) by the end of October every year, even if there are no changes to centre details to confirm the centre's contact details or informs of any changes ((and follows the process (in GR 5.3) if any changes occur after the annual update has taken place)
- 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
- Recruits, trains and deploys a team of internal/external invigilators; appoints lead invigilators, as required and keeps a record of the content of training provided to invigilators for the required period
- Works with the SENDCo to ensure invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates and those acting as a facilitator supporting access arrangement candidates fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room
- Supports the head of centre in ensuring that awarding bodies are informed of any conflict of interest declared by members of centre staff and in maintaining records that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected before the published deadline for entries
- Briefs other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential materials on the requirements for maintaining the integrity and security of confidential examination/assessment materials

Senior leaders (SLT)

- Are familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to current JCQ documents including:
    - A guide to the special consideration process
    - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments
    - AI Use in Assessments: Your role in protecting the integrity of qualifications
    - Guidance for centres on cyber security
    - Instructions for conducting coursework
    - Instructions for conducting examinations
    - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (GCE and GCSE specifications)
    - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (Vocational and Technical Qualifications)
    - Notice to Centres – Informing candidates of their centre-assessed marks
    - Plagiarism in Assessments – Guidance for Teachers/Assessors
    - Post-Results Services
    - Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures
- Ensure teaching staff undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process (exam cycle) and meet internal deadlines set by the EM and SENDCo
- Ensure teaching staff keep themselves updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Ensure teaching staff attend relevant awarding body training and update events

Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENDCo)

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to current JCQ documents 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 ensures the correct procedures are followed

- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification
- Ensures any applications for access arrangements or reasonable adjustments are submitted by the published deadline (The SENCo will hold on file appropriate documentary evidence to substantiate such an arrangement, which is open to inspection. For those qualifications covered by Access Arrangements Online, a JCQ Centre Inspector will sample a centre's applications)
- Ensures a file is presented which must contain for each online application the downloaded approval for the respective arrangement(s) and supporting evidence of need (This information must be readily available for inspection at the venue where the candidate is taking the examination)
- Ensures requests for modified papers are submitted by the published deadline
- Ensures there are appropriate resources in place at the time of examinations/ assessments to meet candidates' needs, e.g. sufficient readers and scribes

Teaching staff

- Undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EM and SENDCo
- Keep updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Attend relevant awarding body training and update events

Invigilators

- Attend/undertake training (on the current regulations), 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

Reception staff

- Support the EM in the receipt and dispatch of confidential materials and follow the requirements for maintaining the integrity and security of confidential examination/assessment materials

Site staff

- Support the EM in relevant matters relating to exam rooms and resources

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 referred to as the **exam cycle** and relevant tasks which need to be undertaken before, during and after an exam series grouped into the following stages:

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

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

Planning: roles and responsibilities

Secure materials

Head of centre

(GR 3.15) Ensures the centre has a secure storage facility in a room solely assigned to examinations (ICE 3.1)

The secure room and the secure storage facility

Question papers and pre-release materials issued by the awarding bodies must always be stored at the centre's registered address in a secure room with a secure storage facility, e.g. safe or security cabinet.

The secure room

The secure room must only be used for the purpose of administering secure examination materials.

Access to the secure room **must** be restricted to between two and six key holders, one of whom **must** be the Exams Manager. The two to six key holders **must** be permanent members of staff or members of staff who have a formal contract of employment and are subject to standard HR policies and procedures.

The secure room **must** be accessible throughout an examination series for the storage of question papers and be available for inspection.

The secure storage facility

Access to the secure storage facility **must** be restricted to two to six key holders, one of whom **must** be the exams Manager.

The two to six key holders **must** either be part of the exams team or the senior leadership team. A key holder from the exams team **must** be a permanent member of staff or a member of staff who has a formal contract of employment and is subject to standard HR policies and procedures.

When the secure storage facility is being accessed for the storage and preparation of secure assessment materials the door to the secure room **must** be closed.

Information sharing

Head of centre

- Directs relevant centre staff to current JCQ documents including GR, ICE, AARA, SMPP ICC, and NEA and SC

Exams Manager

- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ publications and awarding body documentation relating to the examination/assessment process that has been updated
- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ information that must be provided to candidates

- As the centre administrator, approves relevant access rights for centre staff to access awarding bodies secure online systems

Information gathering

Exams Manager

- 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/assessments to enable preparation for and conduct of mock exams.

Head of department

- Responds (or ensures teaching staff respond) to requests from the EM on information gathering
- Meets the internal deadline for the return of information
- Informs the EM 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

Head of centre

- Ensures the centre has documented processes in place relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments
- Ensures the SENDCo is fully supported in effectively implementing access arrangements and reasonable adjustments once approved

SENDCo

- Assesses candidates (or works with the appropriately qualified assessor as appointed by the head of centre) to identify access arrangements requirements
- Gathers evidence to support the need for access arrangements for a candidate
- Liaises with teaching staff to gather evidence of normal way of working for a candidate
- Determines candidate eligibility for arrangements or adjustments that are centre-delegated
- Informs relevant candidates that an application for access arrangements will be processed using *Access Arrangements Online (AAO),* complying with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018

- Applies for approval using AAO via the Centre Admin Portal (CAP), where required or through the awarding body where any qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Keeps a file for each candidate for JCQ inspection purposes containing all the required documentation (if any documentation is kept electronically, an e-folder must be created for each individual candidate. The candidate's e-folder must hold each of the required documents for inspection)
- Employs good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010
- Liaises with the EM regarding exam time arrangements for access arrangement candidates
- Ensures staff appointed to facilitate access arrangements for candidates are thoroughly trained and understand the rules of the particular arrangement(s) and keeps a record of the content of training provided to facilitators for the required period
- Works with the EM to ensure invigilators and those acting as a facilitator fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room
- Liaises with the relevant member of the senior leadership team on the centre's policy on the use of word processors in examinations
- Ensures criteria for candidates granted alternative rooming arrangements within the centre is clear, meets JCQ regulations and best meets the needs of individual candidates and remaining candidates in main exam rooms

Alternative Rooming Arrangements policy

A decision where an exam candidate may be approved alternative rooming arrangements within the centre will be made by the SENDCo. The decision will be based on

- whether the candidate has a substantial and long-term impairment which has an adverse effect; and
- the candidate's normal way of working within the centre [AA 5.16]

Refer to AARA (4.2, 5.16) and ICE (14.18)

Senior Leaders, head of department, teaching staff

- Support the SENDCo in determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements
- Provide a statement for inspection purposes which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations

Internal assessment and endorsements

Head of centre

Controlled assessments, coursework, non-examination assessments and portfolios of evidence

- Ensures that where candidates are taking non-examination assessments, teaching staff check that the tasks and approach being taken are appropriate and in line with the awarding body's specification as well as ethical standards and the centre's safeguarding responsibilities
- If applicable, ensures awarding bodies are notified of a consortium of centres with joint teaching arrangements for qualifications (This will allow the candidates for each specification to be treated as a single group for the moderation of centre- assessed

work. This is only required if two or more member centres will be entering candidates for work that is centre-assessed)
- Ensures only current assessment materials/tasks are used to assess candidates' knowledge and skills (in cases where the awarding body provides such material)
- Before submitting marks to the awarding body ensures candidates are informed of their centre-assessed marks and allows a candidate to request a review of the centre's marking
- Ensures that all associated administrative tasks are completed in an accurate and timely manner, e.g. marks are correctly calculated, recorded and submitted by the published date (It is the responsibility of the centre to carefully check the marks it is submitting to an awarding body)
- Ensures submission of centre-assessed marks and moderation / verification samples, if required by the awarding body, by the published date (It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that moderators receive the correct samples of work to review)
- Ensures any possible conflict of interest is declared to the relevant awarding body before the published deadline for entries for each examination series, i.e. where a member of staff assesses a candidate with whom they have a close personal relationship (The candidate's work will be submitted for moderation whether or not it is part of the moderation sample)
- Ensures a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions is in place and ensures that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates
- Ensures a written policy regarding the management of non-examination assessments, including controlled assessments and coursework, which includes details on how candidates' work will be authenticated is in place
- Ensures that where candidates' work is backed-up and considers the contingency of candidates' work being backed-up on two separate devices, including one off-site back-up via the Cloud (Implementing appropriate security arrangements which protect candidates' work in the event of IT system corruption and cyber-attacks)

Senior leaders

- 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
- Ensure teaching staff delivering GCSE specifications and Vocational and Technical Qualifications (which include components of non-examination assessment) follow JCQ Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensure teaching staff delivering qualifications which include (wholly or in part) units of coursework follow JCQ Instructions for conducting coursework and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensures teaching staff inform candidates of their centre assessed marks as a candidate may request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to 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 (AI (Artificial Intelligence and assessments),

coursework, non-examination assessments, social media) prior to assessments taking place
- Ensure candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks as a candidate may request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body

Exams Manager

- Identifies relevant key dates and administrative processes that need to be followed in relation to internal assessment
- Signposts teaching staff to relevant current JCQ *information for candidates* documents

Invigilation

Head of centre

- Ensures relevant support is provided to the EM in recruiting, training and deploying a team of invigilators
- Ensures, if contracting supply staff to act as invigilators, that such persons are competent and fully trained, understanding what is and what is not permissible
- Determines if additional invigilators will be deployed in timed Art exams in addition to the subject teacher to ensure the supervision of candidates is maintained at all times
- Ensures that, wherever possible the following individuals are not assigned as invigilators during an examination: a teacher, teaching assistant, a tutor or a senior member of centre staff who teaches the subject being examined or a Learning Support Assistant who has supported one or more candidates

Exams Manager

- Recruits additional invigilators where required to effectively cover all exam periods/series throughout the academic year
- Collects information on new recruits to identify if they have invigilated previously and if any current maladministration or malpractice sanctions are applied to them
- Provides thorough training for new invigilators on the current instructions for conducting examinations and an update for the existing invigilation team so that they are aware of any changes in a new academic year, before they are allocated to invigilate an exam
- 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 briefed on the access arrangement candidates in their exam room made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded (ensuring these candidates are identified on the seating plan) and confirms invigilators understand what is and what is not permissible
- Collects evaluation of training to inform future events

Entries and registrations: roles and responsibilities

Estimated entries

Head of centre

- Ensures the centre's obligations as detailed in the regulations are met. (With reference to GR 5.4 **Entries and registrations**)

Exams Manager

- Requests estimated or early entry information, where this may be required by awarding bodies, from senior leaders in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met

Senior leaders

- Provides entry information requested by the EM to the internal deadline
- Informs the EM immediately of any subsequent changes to entry information

Final entries

Head of centre

- Ensures appropriate controls are in place which ensure accurate data is submitted to the awarding bodies by the required deadlines, e.g. registrations, entries, learner claims

Exams Manager

- Requests final entry/registration information from senior leaders in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met
- Informs senior leaders of subsequent deadlines for making changes to final entry information without charge
- Submits registrations, examination entries and certification claims by the deadline(s) and complies with the requirements of the specification including any terminal rules which must to be met at the point of certification
- Confirms with senior leaders 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
- Follows each awarding body's terms and conditions for the registration, entry and timely withdrawal of candidates for their examinations and assessments, and observes any regulatory requirements for the qualification.

Final entries collection and submission procedure

Final entry information will be gathered using entry lists produced on Bromcom.

Senior leaders

- Provides information requested by the EM to the internal deadline
- Informs the EM 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 EM and confirms information is correct or highlights any discrepancies

Entry fees

- The centre will pay all normal examination fees on behalf of candidates
- 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 Manager will publish the deadline for actions well in advance for each exam series
- Late entry or amendment fees are paid by the centre but charged to the subject area concerned

Late entries

Exams Manager

- Has clear entry procedures in place to minimise the risk of late entries
- Charges any late or other penalty fees to departmental budgets

Head of department

- Minimises the risk of late entries by
    - following procedures identified by the EM in relation to making final entries on time
    - meeting internal deadlines identified by the EM for making final entries

Resit entries

If a candidate wishes to re-sit a coursework unit or GCSE, this must be agreed by the teacher and the member of SLT with oversight of exams. It must be in the student's best interest to do so, giving consideration to other coursework units or GCSE's being submitted / taken at the same time. Goldington Academy will normally pay for the re-sit entry if it is supported by the centre.

Candidate statements of entry

Exams Manager

- Provides candidates with statements of entry for checking

Teaching staff

- Ensure candidates check statements of entry and return any relevant confirmation required to the EM

Candidates

- Confirm entry information is correct or notify the EM of any discrepancies

Pre-exams: roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- Ensures the centre's obligations as detailed in the regulations are met. (With reference to GR 5.8 **Candidate information**)

Access arrangements

SENDCo

- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access to exams/assessments for candidates with learning difficulties or disabilities, those for whom English is an additional language and those with a temporary illness or injury
- Ensures a candidate is involved in any decisions about arrangements, adjustments and /or adaptations that may be put in place for them
- Ensures exam information (JCQ information for candidates information, individual exam timetable, etc.) is adapted where this may be required for a candidate to access it
- Allocates appropriately trained centre staff to facilitate access arrangements for candidates in exams and assessments (ensuring that the facilitator appointed meets JCQ requirements and fully understands the rule of the particular access arrangement)
- Where relevant, ensures the necessary and appropriate steps are undertaken to gather an appropriate picture of need and demonstrate normal way of working for a private candidate (such as a distance learner or a home educated student) and that the candidate is assessed by the centre's appointed assessor

Briefing candidates

Exams Manager

- Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates and informs candidates of any contingency sessions awarding bodies may identify in the event of national or local disruption to exams
- Prior to assessments and/or examinations taking place, issues/distributes relevant JCQ *Information for candidates* documents (AI (Artificial Intelligence and assessments), coursework, non- examination assessments, on-screen examinations, social media and written examinations) and awarding body privacy notices
- Where relevant, issues relevant awarding body information to candidates
- Issues centre exam information to candidates including information on:
    - exam timetable 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
    - unauthorised items in exam rooms
    - when and how results will be issued and the staff that will be available
    - the post-results services information and how the centre will deal with requests from candidates
    - when and how certificates will be issued

Access to scripts, reviews of results and appeals procedures

A results and post-results handbook will be issued to students who are receiving examination results during the summer term before results are issued. A copy will be available on the school website.

Dispatch of exam scripts

Exams Manager

- Identifies and confirms arrangements for the dispatch of candidate exam scripts with the DfE (STA) 'yellow label service' or the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of the service

Internal assessment and endorsements

Head of centre

- Ensures procedures are in place for candidates to appeal internal assessment decisions and make requests for reviews of marking

SENDCo

- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments and practical endorsements

Teaching staff

- Support the SENDCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments and practical endorsements
- Assess and authenticate candidates' work
- Assess endorsed components
- Ensure candidates are informed of centre-assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to awarding bodies

Senior leaders

- Ensures teaching staff assess and authenticate candidates' work to the awarding body requirements
- Ensures teaching staff assess endorsed components according to awarding body requirements
- Ensures teaching staff provide marks for internally assessed components and grades for endorsements of qualifications to the EM to the internal deadline
- Ensures teaching staff provide required samples of work for moderation and sample recordings for monitoring to the EM to the internal deadline

Exams Manager

- Submits marks, endorsement grades and samples to awarding bodies / moderators / monitors to meet the external deadline
- Keeps a record to track what has been sent
- Logs moderated samples returned to the centre
- Ensures teaching staff are aware of the requirements in terms of retention and subsequent disposal of candidates' work

Candidates

(NEA Appendix 4 / ICC Appendix 1)

- Read and understand the *Notice to Candi*dates within the Candidate declaration form and sign the declaration (or authenticate their work as required by the awarding body)

Invigilation arrangements

Exams Manager

- Provides an annually reviewed/updated invigilator handbook to invigilators, trains new invigilators on the current regulations on appointment and updates the existing invigilation team on any regulations changes and changes to centre-specific arrangements
- Deploys invigilators effectively to exam rooms throughout an exam series (including the provision of a roving invigilator where a candidate and invigilator [acting as a practical assistant, prompter, reader or scribe] are accommodated on a one-to-one basis to enter the room at regular intervals in order to observe the conducting of the exam, ensuring all relevant rules are being adhered to and supporting the practical assistant/prompter/reader and/or scribe in maintaining the integrity of the exam)
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to a timetable clash) according to the required ratios
- Liaises with the SENDCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates

SENDCo

- Liaises with the EM 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 Manager or **Senior leader**

- Will accompany the Inspector throughout a visit

SENDCo or relevant **Senior leader** (in the absence of the SENDCo)

- Will meet with the inspector when requested to provide documentary evidence regarding access arrangement candidates and address any questions, the inspector may raise
- Ensures that information is readily available for inspection at the venue where the candidate is taking the exam(s)

Seating and identifying candidates in exam rooms

Exams Manager

- Ensures a procedure is in place to verify candidate identity including private candidates

Verifying candidate identity procedure

To verify a candidate's identity – personalised photographic ID cards will be present on each exam desk for each exam as per the examination seating plan. These are individually created for each student and all details are imported from Bromcom.

Subject staff are not permitted to be present at the start of the exam. Senior members of staff may be present at the start of an exam, provided they have not taught the subject being examined to assist with identification of candidates if necessary but they may not view the paper(s) to be sat in that session.

At the point at which candidates are identified, the attendance register will be completed. In the Sports Barn this will usually be the Exams Manager or a nominated deputy. In the satellite rooms, the Invigilator will be responsible for checking the candidate's identity and completing the register.

The Head of Year or member of senior leadership will contact missing candidates and inform the EM of the outcome.

In cases where it is impossible to identify a candidate due to the wearing of religious clothing, such as a veil, the candidate should be approached by a member of staff of the same gender and taken to a private room where they should be politely asked to remove the religious clothing for identification purposes. Candidates will be informed of this procedure in advance and well before their first examination.

Once identification has been established, the candidate should replace, for example, their veil and proceed as normal to sit the examination.

- Ensures invigilators are aware of the procedure
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms according to JCQ and awarding body requirements (and ensures candidates with access arrangements are identified on the seating plan and invigilators are informed of those candidates with access arrangements and made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded)

Invigilators

- Follow the procedure provided by the EO which details how the identity of all candidates sitting exams will be confirmed
- Seat candidates in exam rooms as instructed by the EM/on the seating plan

Security of exam materials

Exams Manager

- Confirms appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential exam materials are only handed over to authorised members of staff
- Ensures access to the secure room is restricted and staff approved by the head of centre are accompanied by a keyholder at all times.
- Has a process in place to demonstrate the receipt, secure movement and secure storage of confidential exam materials within the centre
- Ensures a log is kept at the initial point of delivery recording confidential materials received and signed for by authorised staff within the centre and that appropriate

arrangements are in place for confidential materials to be immediately transferred to the secure storage facility until they can be removed from the dispatch packaging and checked in the secure room before being returned to the secure storage facility in timetable order

- Carefully checks question paper packets when they are removed from the dispatch packaging and keeps a log of the check
- Ensures the secure storage facility contains only current and live confidential material (ensuring that past examination question papers, internal tests and mock examinations are not kept in the centre's secure storage facility)
- Ensures that examination stationery, e.g. answer booklets and formula booklets are stored in the secure room (attempting to store this material in the secure storage facility, when sufficient space allows)
- Ensures the integrity and security of any electronic question paper is maintained during the downloading, printing and collating process (ensuring printing is carried out in secure environment at the centre to prevent unauthorised personnel accessing live assessment materials and ensuring only authorised members of centre staff have access to electronic question paper materials)
- At minimum of two and a maximum of six members of centre staff should be authorised to handle secure electronic materials, one of whom must be the exams Manager. Other members of centre staff may assist with printing and collation provided they are under supervision.
- Ensures that the question paper is printed correctly, is of good quality and is collated in the right order

Reception staff

- Follow the process to log confidential materials delivered to/received by the centre to the point materials are issued to authorised staff for transferal to the secure storage facility

Teaching staff

- Adhere to the process to record the secure movement of confidential materials taken from or returned to secure storage throughout the time the material is confidential

Timetabling and rooming

Exams Manager

- Produces a master centre exam timetable for each exam series
- Identifies and resolves candidate exam timetable clashes according to the regulations (only applying overnight supervision as a last resort, once all other options have been exhausted and according to the centre's policy)
- Identifies exam rooms and specialist equipment requirements
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to an exam timetable clash) 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 SENDCo regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates

SENDCo

- Liaises with the EM 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

Site staff

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

Overnight Supervision Arrangements Policy

Allowing a candidate to take an exam paper the following morning due to an eligible overnight supervision arrangement is at the discretion of the Goldington Academy as a last resort and only if the total duration of three or more examinations to be taken in one day is more than 5 hours 30 minutes for GCSE examinations.

Goldington Academy will appoint a member of centre staff or an invigilator to supervise the candidate while he/she is on the premises sitting examinations. The candidate must be under centre supervision from 30 minutes after the awarding body's published starting time for the delayed examination. Goldington Academy will ensure there is no contact with other candidates. If an examination from Friday afternoon is deferred, it will be taken on the Saturday morning.

The supervision of a candidate on journeys to and from the centre and overnight may be undertaken by the candidate's parent/carer. The supervisor must supervise the candidate from the time when he/she leaves the supervision of the centre until supervision of the candidate is transferred back again to the appointed person at the centre.

The candidate must not meet or communicate with anyone who may have knowledge of the content. This includes any form of electronic communication/storage device, e.g. e-mail, internet, online streaming services, social media and telephone. It also includes printed media, radio and television which could report key details of the day's examinations.

The JCQ Overnight Supervision and Overnight Supervision Declaration forms must be completed before the overnight supervision is to commence. The JCQ Overnight Supervision form is completed online using the Centre Admin Portal (CAP). The JCQ Overnight Supervision Declaration form is downloaded from the Centre Admin Portal (CAP) for signing by the candidate, the supervisor and the head of centre.

Alternative site arrangements

Exams Manager

- Ensures question papers will only be taken to an alternative site where the published criteria for an alternative site arrangement have been met
- Will inform the JCQ Centre Inspection Service to timescale, by submitting a JCQ *Alternative Site form* using CAP (or through the awarding body where a qualification may sit outside the scope of CAP) of any alternative sites that will be used to conduct timetabled examination components of the qualifications listed in the JCQ regulations

Transferred candidate arrangements

Exams Manager

- Liaises with the host or entering centre, as required
- Processes requests for *Transferred Candidate arrangements* through CAP to the awarding body deadline (or through the awarding body where a qualification may sit outside the scope of CAP)
- Where relevant (for an internal candidate) informs the candidate of the arrangements that have been made for their transferred candidate arrangements

Internal exams

Exams Manager

- Prepares for the conduct of internal exams/assessments 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

SENDCo

- Liaises with teaching staff to make appropriate arrangements for access arrangement candidates

Teaching staff

- Provide exam papers and materials to the EM
- Support the SENDCo in making appropriate arrangements for access arrangement candidates

Exam time: roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- Ensures the centre's obligations as detailed in the regulations are met. (With reference to GR 5.9 **Conducting examinations and assessments**)

Access arrangements

Exams Manager

- 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
    - Liaises with the SENDCo to apply for approval through AAO where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

Candidate absence

Candidate absence policy

Using the seating plan and exam register the Exams Manager will identify any absences before the start of an exam in the Sports Barn. In satellite rooms, the Invigilator will inform the Exams Manager.
If the candidate has not withdrawn, the EM will then contact the Head of Year to further check whether the candidate should be present or not.
If there is no clear explanation for the candidate's absence, the Head of Year will phone home. Updates will be passed back to the EM, Lead Invigilator, SLT and Head of Year.
Where a candidate is not contactable, a home visit will be made.

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

Candidate late arrival

Exams Manager

- Ensures that candidates who arrive very late for an exam are reported to the awarding body by submitting a *report on candidate admitted very late to examination room* through CAP to timescale
- Warns candidates that their script 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

Candidate late arrival policy

Late candidates will be allowed into the exam venue to sit the examination. The candidate will be given the full time allowed for the exam. They must be given all pre-examination information and warnings before they start the examination. This will be conducted by the Exams Manager outside the Sports Barn. In the case of satellite rooms, this will be carried out by the Invigilator where ratio's permit, otherwise, the Exams Manager will be called.
The late candidate's new start and finish times will be written clearly by an invigilator and placed on the candidate's exam desk and recorded on the incident log.
The EM will ensure that invigilation supervision is in place for the duration of the candidate's exam.
Very Late Candidates
JCQ regulations state that a candidate will be considered very late if they arrive more than one hour after the published starting time for an examination which lasts one hour or more, i.e., after 10.00am for a morning examination or after 2.30pm for an afternoon examination. (JCQ Published Start Times are 9am and 1.30pm).

For examinations that last less than one hour, a candidate will be considered very late if they arrive after the awarding body's published finishing time for the examination.
Where a candidate is going to arrive "very late" for an exam, the parent/carer will be advised by the Exams Manager as quickly as possible to keep the candidate under supervision at all times until they are handed over to a member of centre staff.
Parents/Carers will also be instructed to:

- Immediately take away any internet-enabled devices (e.g., mobile phone, tablet, smart watch, laptop, PC etc.)
- Personally drive or escort the candidate from home to school, using a private vehicle or taxi and avoiding public transport
- Ensure that the candidate is fully supervised as early as possible and preferably from the published starting time of the exam, until the candidate is handed over to a member of staff at main reception – the parent/carer should make a written note of what time the candidate is supervised from.

Both the candidate and the parent/carer who has supervised them will be asked to sign a letter confirming that the above measures have been put in place. Goldington Academy will also ask the parent/carer and the candidate to provide handwritten, signed statements giving details of the time the candidate was supervised from and by whom, and the reason for their late arrival.
Candidates and their parents/carers should be clear that the awarding body may not accept their work.

Conducting exams

Head of centre

- Ensures venues used for conducting exams meet the requirements of JCQ and awarding bodies

Exams Manager

- 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 with and associated follow-up is completed

Dispatch of exam scripts

Exams Manager

- Dispatches scripts and accompanying attendance registers to the address provided by the examining boards on the same day of the examination where possible
- Will plan to despatch scripts from the morning and afternoon sessions of Friday 22 May 2026 that afternoon. If this is not possible, scripts must be retained in secure storage and be despatched as early as possible on Tuesday 26 May 2026
- Keeps appropriate records to track dispatch

Exam papers and materials

Exams Manager

- Organises exam question papers and associated confidential resources in date order in the secure storage facility
- Attaches erratum notices received to relevant exam question paper packets
- Collates attendance registers and examiner details in date order
- Regularly checks mail or email inbox for updates from awarding bodies
- In order to avoid potential breaches of security, ensures care is taken to ensure the correct question paper packets are opened by ensuring a member of centre staff, additional to the person removing the papers from secure storage, e.g., an invigilator, checks the day, date, time, subject, unit/component and tier of entry, if appropriate, immediately before a question paper packet is opened
- Ensures this second pair of eyes check is recorded
- Ensures question papers are always be kept in their sealed packets until the second pair of eyes check and log have been completed
- Ensures the second pair of eyes check takes place immediately before each question paper packet is opened in the designated examination room
- If the question paper packet needs to be split for different rooms on one or more sites or for an access arrangement, ensures the check takes place in the secure room
- Ensures unused question papers are not released to any individual until 24 hours after the awarding body's published finishing time for the examination (Where a candidate is sitting an examination scheduled for the afternoon session on the following morning under an overnight supervision arrangement, unused question papers for that examination must not be released to any individual until the candidate has completed that examination)

Exam rooms

Head of centre

- Ensures that internal tests, mock exams, revision or coaching sessions are not conducted in a room 'designated' as an exam room
- Ensures that when a room is 'designated' as an exam room it is not used for any purpose other than conducting external exams
- Ensures only approved centre staff (who have not taught the subject being examined) are present in exam rooms to perform permitted tasks
- Ensures the centre's policy relating to food and drink that may be allowed in exam rooms is clearly communicated to candidates
- Ensures the centre's policy on candidates leaving the exam room temporarily is clearly communicated to candidates

Food and drink in exam rooms policy

A bottle of water is permitted in the examination room. However, this is on the condition that any water brought into the examination room by the candidate is free from packaging and all labels are removed from drink containers. The centre stipulates that the drink must be water only.

Exceptions to this rule apply in the case of medical conditions. Each case will be reviewed separately by the EM and all food and drink will be free from wrappers and

checked prior to each exam by the EM or Invigilator. Candidates requiring food and drink will be clearly identifiable in the exam room.

Policy on candidates leaving the exam room temporarily

Toilet breaks are not allowed unless a toilet pass is held. There will be some discretion allowed by invigilators, but time will be lost and not added back should a student leave the exam room for the toilet. Students will be accompanied by an invigilator.

Should a student be unwell, they will be allowed to make up any time needed.

Candidates who are allowed to leave the examination room temporarily must be accompanied by a member of centre staff. This must not be the candidate's subject teacher or a subject expert for the examination in question. Those candidates may be allowed extra time at the discretion of the centre to compensate for their temporary absence. [ICE 23]

Exams Manager

- Ensures exam rooms are set up and conducted 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 (including the arrangements in place for any transferred candidates and access arrangement candidates)
- Ensures sole invigilators have an appropriate means of summoning assistance (if this is a mobile phone, instructs the invigilator that the mobile phone is only allowed to be used for this specific purpose and that it must be kept on silent mode)
- Ensures invigilators understand they must be vigilant and remain aware of incidents or emerging situations, looking out for malpractice or candidates who may be in distress, recording any incidents or issues on the exam room incident log
- Ensures invigilators understand how to deal with candidates who may need to leave the exam room temporarily and how this should be recorded on the exam room incident log
- 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
- Ensure a procedure is in place in case of an emergency lockdown

Emergency evacuation policy

Goldington Academy's Evacuation Policy is available on the school website.

Emergency lockdown policy

Goldington Academy's Lockdown Policy is available on the school website.

Site staff

- Ensure exam rooms are available and set up as requested by the EM
- 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 according to JCQ *Instructions for conducting examinations* and/or awarding body requirements and as instructed by the centre in training/update and briefing sessions

Candidates

- Are required to follow the instructions given to them in exam rooms by authorised centre staff and invigilators
- Are required to remain in the exam room for the full duration of the exam

Irregularities

Head of centre

- Ensures (as required by an awarding body) any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration before, during or after examinations/assessments (by centre staff, candidates, invigilators) are investigated and reported to the awarding body **immediately**, by completing the appropriate documentation

Managing behaviour in exam rooms procedure

In the first instance, if a candidate's behaviour is causing potential disruption or contravenes rules, the Invigilator must request that they stop the behaviour. If there is no improvement, they will be warned that they could be removed from the exam room. Failing this, the head of centre has the authority to remove a candidate from the examination room but should only do so if the candidate would disrupt others by remaining in the room. Candidates will be sanctioned according to the centre's Internal Behaviour Policy (available on the school website) and the EM must ensure that any cases of suspected malpractice (by centre staff, candidates, and invigilators) are investigated and reported to the awarding body as required.

Senior leaders

- Ensure support is provided for the EM and invigilators when dealing with disruptive candidates in exam rooms
- Ensure that internal disciplinary procedures relating to candidate behaviour are instigated, when appropriate

- 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 or needing to leave the exam room temporarily, disruption or disturbance in the exam room, emergency evacuation)

Special consideration

Senior leaders

- Support eligible applications for special consideration by authorising appropriate evidence

Exams Manager

- Processes eligible applications 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

Special Consideration Policy

Goldington Academy's Special Consideration Policy is available on the school website.

Candidates

- Provide appropriate evidence to support special consideration requests, where required

Unauthorised items

Arrangements for unauthorised materials taken into the exam room

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. All candidate belongings are to be left in the Sports Barn changing rooms. These changing rooms will be locked at all times during the examination and only accessible by a member of staff. Candidates must bring all of the required equipment with them as they will not be allowed access to their bags once they are in the exam room. Candidates with asthma pumps or epipens should bring these with them into the exam room and put them under their desk. No Phones, Smartwatches, iPods, MP3 players, headphones, watches, smart glasses or any other smart device or any electronic device will be allowed in the exam room. Checks will take place. Any candidate who does not follow these regulations could be liable for malpractice and risk losing their qualification(s).

Invigilators

- Are informed of the arrangements through training

Internal exams/assessments

Exams Manager

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

Invigilators

- Conduct internal exams as briefed by the EM

Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- Ensures the centre's obligations as detailed in the regulations are met. (With reference to GR 5.12 **Results**, 5.13 **Post-results services and appeals**, 5.14 **Certificates**)

Internal assessment

Senior leaders

- 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 after the retention period or disposed of according to the requirements

Managing results day(s)

Senior leaders

- Identify centre staff who will be involved in the main summer results day(s) and their role
- Ensures senior members of staff are accessible to candidates immediately after the publication of results so that results may be discussed and decisions made on the submission of any requests for post-results services and ensures candidates are informed of the periods during which centre staff will be available so that they may plan accordingly

Exams Manager

- Works with senior leaders to ensure procedures for managing the main summer results day(s) (a results day programme) are in place

Results day programme

A results day programme will be detailed in the candidate's examination handbooks that are provided to all Year 10 & 11 students. The handbook is also available to view electronically on the school website. Details of the finalised results day programme for their exam series will also be sent home, during the Summer Term and published on the examination noticeboard and school website.

Site staff

- Ensure the centre is open and accessible to centre staff and candidates, as required for the collection of results

Accessing results

Head of centre

- Ensures results are kept entirely confidential and restricted to key members of staff until the official dates and times of release of results to candidates

Exams Manager

- Informs candidates in advance of when and how results will be released to them for each exam series
- 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 an **internal appeals procedure** is available where candidates disagree with any centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal
- Ensures that senior members of centre staff are available immediately after the publication of results
- Understands that if the centre has concerns about one of its components/subject cohorts, then requests for reviews of marking should be submitted for all candidates believed to be affected (candidate consent is required **after** the publication of results as marks and subject grades may be lowered, confirmed or raised)

Exams Manager

- Provides information to candidates and staff on the services provided by awarding bodies and the fees charged (see also above Briefing candidates and Access to scripts, enquiries about results and appeals procedures)
- Publishes internal deadlines for requesting the services to ensure the external deadlines can be effectively met
- Provides a process to record requests for services and to collect candidate informed consent (after the publication of results) and fees where relevant
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline for the particular service
- Tracks requests to conclusion and informs candidates and relevant centre staff of outcomes
- Updates centre results information, where applicable

Teaching staff

- Meet internal deadlines to request the services and gain relevant candidate informed consent
- Identify the budget to which fees should be charged

Candidates

- Meet internal deadlines to request the services
- Provide informed consent and (where relevant) fees

Analysis of results

Data Manager

- Provides analysis of results to appropriate centre staff
- Provides results information to external organisations where required
  Undertakes the DfE School and College Checking Exercises (where applicable to the centre) https://check-your-performance-measures-data.education.gov.uk/hc/en-gb

Certificates

Certificates are provided to centres by awarding bodies after results have been confirmed.

Issue of certificates procedure

Certificates may be collected on behalf of a candidate by a third party, provided they have been authorised to do so by completing the relevant form and providing ID. Replacement certificates are only issued if a candidate agrees to pay the costs incurred. The centre retains certificates for two years.

Candidates

- May arrange for certificates to be collected on their behalf by providing the EM with written or email permission/authorisation; authorised persons must provide ID evidence on collection of certificates

Retention of certificates policy

The Exams Manager will securely retain certificates for two years. After this time, they will be disposed of via confidential waste / will be shredded.

Exams review: roles and responsibilities

Exams Manager

- Provides SLT with an overview of the exam year, highlighting what went well and what could be developed/improved in terms of exams management and administrative processes within the stages of the exam cycle
- Collects and evaluates feedback from staff, candidates and invigilators to inform an exams review

Senior leaders

- Work with the EM to produce a plan to action any required improvements identified in the review

Retention of records: roles and responsibilities

Exams Manager

- Keeps records as required by JCQ and awarding bodies for the required period
- Keeps records as required by the centre's records management policy
- Provides an exams archiving policy that identifies information held, retention period and method of disposal

Exams archiving policy

The Goldington Academy Exams archiving policy is available on the school website