



Highshore School Exam Policy

2023

AN January 2023

Review Date: January 2025

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The Exam Policy

The purpose of this Exam Policy is:

- to ensure the planning and management of Exams is conducted efficiently and in the best interest of candidates
- to ensure the operation of an efficient Exam system with clear guidelines for all relevant staff.

It is the responsibility of everyone involved in the centre's Exam processes to read, understand and implement this Policy.

This Exam Policy will be reviewed every two years.

This Exam Policy will be reviewed by the Head of Centre, Senior Leadership Team and the Exams Officer.

1. Exam responsibilities

Head of centre: **Eileen Ollieuz**

Overall responsibility for the school as an exam centre:

- advises on Appeals and re-marks
- the Head of Centre is responsible for reporting all suspicions or actual incidents of malpractice in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Please see JCQ document for further details: *Suspected malpractice in examinations and assessments*

Exams officer: **Ali Naqvi**

Manages the administration of public and internal Exams and analysis of Exam results:

- advises the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Subject and Class tutors and other relevant support staff on annual Exam timetables and application procedures as set by the various Exam Boards
- oversees the production and distribution to staff, governors and candidates of an annual calendar for all Exams in which candidates will be involved and communicates regularly with staff concerning imminent deadlines and events
- ensures that candidates and their parents are informed of and understand those aspects of the Exam timetable that will affect them
- consults with teaching staff to ensure that necessary Coursework is completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines
- provides and confirms detailed data on estimated entries
- receives, checks and stores securely all Exam Papers and completed scripts

- administers access arrangements and makes applications for special consideration using the *JCQ Access arrangements and special considerations regulations and Guidance relating to candidates who are eligible for adjustments in examinations*
- identifies and manages Exam timetable clashes
- accounts for income and expenditures relating to all Exam costs/charges
- participates in the organising, training and monitoring of Exam invigilators and readers responsible for the conduct of Exams
- prepares and presents reports to the SLT showing results achieved in relation to expected grades and comparable data for previous years, indicating where future procedural improvements might be made
- submits candidate's Coursework marks, tracks despatch and stores returned Coursework and any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies correctly and on schedule
- arranges for dissemination of Exam Results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the SLT, any appeals/re-mark requests
- maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their Exams.

Teachers

- Submission of candidates' names to Exams Officer

Candidates

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

2. The statutory tests and qualifications offered

The statutory tests and qualifications offered at this centre are decided by the Head of Centre and the SLT.

The qualifications currently offered are Pearson's Edexcel Functional Skills Entry Level in Literacy and Numeracy, Level 1 Mathematics, Arts Award - Bronze and Silver, ASDAN Life Skills Challenges and ASDAN Employability.

The subjects offered for these qualifications in any academic year may be found in the centre's published prospectus for that year

Decisions on whether a candidate is entered for individual subjects will be taken in consultation with the Heads of Subject and the Exams Officer.

All candidates will be entitled, and enabled, to achieve an entry for qualifications from an external awarding body which is appropriate to their cognitive and learning needs

3. Exam seasons and timetables

Exam seasons

External exams are scheduled in January, March, May, June, November and on demand for Functional skills Entry Level Exams and ASDAN Life Skills Challenges.

The Exam series used in the centre are decided by the SLT.

Timetables

Once confirmed, the Exams Officer will circulate the exam timetables for external exams to staff and inform parents.

4. Entries, entry details and late entries

Entries

Candidates are selected for their Exam entries by the Exams Officer, SLT and the Heads of Subject.

The centre does not accept entries from external candidates.

Late entries

Entry deadlines are circulated to Heads of Subject personally.

Late entries are authorised by the Exams Officer and Head of Centre (head teacher).

5. Exam fees

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

Late entry or amendment fees are paid by centre.

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.

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

DDA

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

Special Needs

The extent of a candidate's Special Needs requirements is determined by the SLT and specialist teachers.

Access arrangements

Making special arrangements for candidates to access exams is the responsibility of the Exams Officer and specialist teacher.

Submitting completed access arrangement applications to the awarding bodies is the responsibility of the Exams Officer.

Rooming for access arrangement candidates will be arranged by the SLT with the exams officer.

Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates will be organised by the exams officer and SLT

7. Estimated grades

The Heads of Subject will submit estimated grades to the Exams Officer, when requested by the Exams Officer, where and if necessary.

8. Managing invigilators and exam days

Managing invigilators

External invigilators are not used at Highshore.

Invigilation and support for candidates is undertaken by teachers and teaching assistants.

Exam Days

The Exams Officer, with the SLT, will book all Exam rooms and make the question papers, other Exam stationery and materials available for the invigilator.

The lead invigilator will start all Exams in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Subject staff may be present at the start of the exam to assist with identification of candidates but must not advise on which questions are to be attempted.

In practical Exams Subject Teachers may be on hand in case of any technical difficulties.

Exam papers must not be read by Subject Teachers or removed from the exam room before the end of a session. Copies of the exam papers will be distributed to subject heads at the end of the exam session.

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

9. Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, such as, a fire alarm or a bomb alert the centre emergency evacuation policy will come into use.

- Candidates will stop writing and leave the exam room or hall by the designated route in silence
- The candidates will be supervised by staff throughout to ensure that there is no discussion about the examination
- The lead invigilator will collect the attendance register and make a note of the time of the interruption and how long it lasted.
- The candidates will be allowed the full working time set for the examination
- Where there are only a few candidates they may be taken to another area, with their question papers and scripts, to finish the exam
- A full report of the incident and of the action taken, and send to the relevant awarding body.

10. Candidates and special consideration

Candidates

The centre's published rules on acceptable dress, behaviour and candidates' use of mobile phones and all electronic devices apply at all times.

Candidates' personal belongings remain their own responsibility and the centre accepts no liability for their loss or damage.

Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

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

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

Special Consideration

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

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

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

11. Coursework

Entry Level Coursework Procedure at Highshore School

1. Coursework is defined as any piece of written or practical work which is marked by the school or an external examiner and which contributes to an Entry level qualification.
2. Students will be supported to enable them to read and understand fully the Notice to Candidates from the JCQ Coursework Regulations.
3. Irregularities in Coursework discovered prior to the student signing a declaration of authentication will not be reported to the Awarding Body but dealt with as an internal disciplinary matter. The work will not gain any credit.
4. An irregularity in Coursework discovered after the signing of the declaration of authentication by the student will be reported to the Awarding Body which may lead to disqualification from the subject.
5. Coursework must be handed in by the agreed departmental deadline. Deadlines will be circulated to subject teachers working with a group towards Entry level accreditation which requires coursework.
6. All students are given the same and sufficient time to complete the work.
7. Students are given clear instructions as to the time and place for handing in the work.

8. The work must be handed in by the student to the designated teacher and not given to another student to hand in.
9. All Coursework is filed onsite by the specific subject teachers. If the student is absent from school on the deadline day, the teacher will submit the work on the student's behalf.
10. If it is impossible to deliver the work to school, the Exams Officer must be contacted by phone on the deadline day for advice.
11. If the Coursework has not been completed by the deadline, the incomplete work must be handed in on the deadline day to receive a mark. There will be no further opportunity to complete this work for an improved mark.
12. Normally there will be no extension of a coursework deadline if a student is absent for a day or two during the period that the coursework is being completed.
13. If there are any special circumstances e.g. play rehearsals or a prolonged absence covered by a medical certificate, there is a possibility of an extension but this must be negotiated with the Exams Officer.
14. Marks for all internally assessed work and estimated grades are provided to the exams officer by the subject heads. Subject heads are responsible for moderation of coursework within their departments.
15. Subject Heads will ensure all Coursework is ready for despatch at the correct time. The exams officer will keep a record of what has been sent when and to whom.

12. Appeals against Internal Assessments

An appeal is a process through which the Centre may be challenged on the outcome of a result, or where appropriate, another procedural decision affecting an individual candidate.

1. Appeals will only be entertained if they apply to the process leading to an assessment. There is no appeal against the mark or grade awarded
2. Candidates may appeal if they feel their coursework has been assessed unfairly, inconsistently or not in accordance with the specification for the qualification
3. Appeals should be made in writing to the Head of Centre (or other nominee) who will decide whether the process used conformed to the necessary requirements. The candidate can be supported in the presentation of their case by a parent/carer.
4. The Head of School will nominate a Senior Leader, normally the Exams Officer, to lead the enquiry provided that the Exams Officer has played no part in the original assessment process. An experienced Head of Subject or School Governor, to act as an independent member, will also be on the panel.

5. The panel will set a timeframe for the Appeals process and examine the evidence for the procedures used in the assessment. It will decide upon their appropriateness and that the procedures have been properly followed as required by the Awarding Body concerned.
6. The panel's findings will be formally reported back to the candidate /parent/ carer according to the set timescale.
7. Records of the request for the appeal, the evidence, deliberations of the panel and the result will be kept by the Exams Officer and made available to the Awarding Body if required.

13. Results, enquiries about results (EARs) and access to scripts (ATS)

Results

Results are posted to school and pupils informed when received.

EARs

EARs may be requested by centre staff or candidates if there are reasonable grounds for believing there has been an error in marking.

If a result is queried, the exams officer, teaching staff and head of centre will investigate the feasibility of asking for a re-mark at the centre's expense.

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

ATS

After the release of results, candidates may ask subject staff to request the return of papers within three days' scrutiny of the results.

Centre staff may also request scripts for investigation or for teaching purposes. For the latter, the consent of candidates must be obtained.

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

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14. Certificates

Certificates are presented in person, posted (Recorded Delivery) or collected and signed for.

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

Replacement certificates are only issued if a candidate agrees to pay the costs incurred. The centre retains certificates for three years.

15. Withdrawal of Qualifications

Reasons for withdrawing a Qualification

There are a number of reasons why a qualification might be withdrawn by the school, including:

- lack of demand for the qualification
- qualification no longer meeting regulatory requirements
- qualification subject matter no longer relevant
- revision of a level assigned to a qualification
- qualification is withdrawn by the Awarding Body

Arrangements for Withdrawal of Qualifications

If the school decides to withdraw a qualification it will take all reasonable steps to protect the interests of the candidates.

The school will ensure that candidates are not disadvantaged through such a decision and are allowed to claim unit/credit certification to which they may be entitled.

If the school withdraws from providing a qualification (whether through its own choice or not) it will:

1. notify the Awarding Body that awards the qualification
2. ensure candidates and potential candidates are informed in a timely fashion
3. ensure the interests of candidates already entered for the qualification have been provided with support to find alternative options for them to complete the qualification
4. not make any misrepresentations in any marketing material regarding qualifications that have been withdrawn
5. notify the Awarding Body of any candidates who may be affected by the withdrawal

6. comply with any written instructions by the Awarding Body with regard to the withdrawal of its qualifications.

Head of centre

Exams officer

January 30th 2023

Date: The policy is next due for review in March 2025