



THE PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Exams Policy

Policy Update

Policy Lead Person:	Headteacher
Approved By:	Local Governing Board / 14th November 2019
Next Review Date Due:	September 2021

- Staff *must* sign
- Staff *should* sign
- Governors *should* sign
- Publicly Available

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The policy is next due for review in September 2021.

The purpose of the exams policy is:

- to ensure the planning and management of exams is conducted efficiently and in the best interests of candidates;
- to ensure the operation of an efficient exams 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.

The exams policy will be reviewed every two years.

The exams policy will be reviewed by the Deputy Headteacher, Exams Officer and Governors.

Where references are made to JCQ regulations/guidelines, further details can be found at www.jcq.org.uk.

Exam responsibilities

The head of centre:

- has overall responsibility for the school/college as an exams centre and advises on appeals and re-marks.
- is responsible for reporting all suspected or actual incidents of malpractice - refer to the JCQ document "*Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments*".

Exams officer¹:

- Manages the administration of internal and external exams.
- Advises the senior leadership team, subject and class tutors, and other relevant support staff on annual exams timetables and procedures as set by the various awarding bodies.
- Oversees the production and distribution, to all centre staff 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 exams timetable that will affect them.
- Checks with teaching staff that the necessary coursework and/or controlled assessments are completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- Provides and confirms detailed data on estimated entries.
- Maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their exams. Receives, checks and stores securely all exam papers and completed scripts and ensures that scripts are dispatched as per the guidelines.

¹ This is the individual to whom the Head of Centre has delegated responsibility for the administration of exams in their centre.

- Administers access arrangements and makes applications for special consideration following the regulations in the JCQ publication "*A guide to the special consideration process*".
- Identifies and manages exam timetable clashes.
- Accounts for income and expenditures relating to all exam costs/charges.
- Line manages the Senior Exams Invigilator in organising the recruitment, training, and monitoring of a team of exams invigilators responsible for the conduct of exams.
- Ensures candidates' coursework / Non Examined Assessment marks are submitted, and any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies correctly and on schedule.
- Tracks, dispatches, and stores returned coursework / Non Examined Assessments.
- Arranges for dissemination of exam results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the SLT, any post results service requests.

Heads of Department are responsible for:

- Guidance and pastoral oversight of candidates who are unsure about exams entries or amendments to entries.
- Accurate completion of entry and all other mark sheets and adherence to deadlines as set by the exams officer.
- Accurate completion of coursework / Non Examined Assessment mark sheets and declaration sheets.
- Decisions on post-results procedures.

Teachers are responsible for:

- Supplying information on entries, coursework / Non Examined Assessments and controlled assessments as required by the head of department and/or exams officer.

The **Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo)** is responsible for:

- Identification and testing of candidates' requirements for access arrangements and notifying the exams officer in good time so that they are able to put in place exam day arrangements.
- Process any necessary applications in order to gain approval (if required).
- Working with the exams officer to provide the access arrangements required by candidates in exams rooms.

Lead invigilator/invigilators are responsible for:

- Assisting the exams officer in the efficient running of exams according to JCQ regulations.

Candidates are responsible for:

- Confirmation and signing of entries.

- Understanding coursework/Non Examined Assessment regulations and signing a declaration that authenticates the coursework as their own.
- Ensuring they conduct themselves in all exams according to the JCQ regulations.

Qualifications offered

The qualifications offered at this centre are decided by the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Department based on the needs of the cohort

The types of qualifications offered are GCSEs, BTECs, Cambridge National Qualifications, RSL awards and Entry Level Certificates.

The subjects offered for these qualifications in any academic year may be found in the centre's published prospectus or similar documents for that year. If there is to be a change of specification for the next year, the exams office must be informed by 1st September.

Informing the exams office of changes to a specification is the responsibility of the Heads of Department.

Decisions on whether a candidate should be entered for a particular subject will be taken by Heads of Department in consultation with the Subject Teachers and Senior Leadership Team.

Exam series

Internal exams (mock or trial exams) and assessments are scheduled on our internal school calendar and published to staff, students and parents.

External exams and assessments are scheduled in May and June.

Internal exams are held under external exam conditions.

The Senior Leadership Team decides which exam series are used in the centre.

The centre does offer some assessments on an on-demand basis. If offered, on-demand assessments can be scheduled only in windows agreed between the Head of Department and the Examinations Officer.

Exam timetables

Once confirmed, the exams officer will circulate the exam timetables for internal and/or external exams before each series begins.

Entries, entry details and late entries

Candidates or parents/carers can request a subject entry, change of level or withdrawal.

The centre does not accept entries from private candidates.

The centre does not act as an exams centre for other organisations.

Entry deadlines are circulated to heads of department/curriculum via email or memorandum.

Heads of department/curriculum will provide estimated entry information to the exams officer to meet JCQ and awarding body deadlines.

GCSE re-sits are not offered.

Non-GCSE re-sit decisions will be made by Heads of Department in consultation with the SLT and Examinations Officer.

Exam fees

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 officer will publish the deadline for actions well in advance for each exams series.

Entry exam fees are paid by the centre.

Late entry or amendment fees are paid by the centre, department or candidates, as appropriate.

Fee reimbursements are sought from candidates:

- if they fail to sit an exam without medical evidence or evidence of other mitigating circumstances.
- if the candidate withdraws from an exam after the deadline has passed.

Equality Legislation

All exam centre staff must ensure that they meet the requirements of any equality legislation.

The centre will comply with the legislation, including making reasonable adjustments to the service that they provide to candidates in accordance with requirements defined by the legislation, awarding bodies, and JCQ. This is the responsibility of the SLT.

Access arrangements

The SENDCo will inform subject teachers of candidates with special educational needs and any special arrangements that individual candidates will need during the course and in any assessments/exams.

A candidate's access arrangements requirement is determined by the SENDCo and Teachers.

Ensuring there is appropriate evidence for a candidate's access arrangement is the responsibility of the SENDCo.

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

Rooming for access arrangement candidates will be arranged by the SENDCo and the SEND Exams Support Teaching Assistant.

Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates, as defined in the JCQ access arrangements regulations, will be organised by the SENDCo with assistance from the SEND Exams Support Teaching Assistant and the Exams Officer.

Contingency planning

Contingency planning for exams administration is the responsibility of the Examinations Officer.

Contingency plans are available via the School Website and are in line with the guidance provided by Ofqual, JCQ and awarding organisations.

Managing invigilators

Internal and External staff will be used to invigilate examinations.

These invigilators will be used for internal exams and external exams.

Recruitment of invigilators is the responsibility of the Examinations Officer and Deputy Headteacher.

Securing the necessary Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) clearance for new invigilators is the responsibility of the HR Coordinator.

DBS fees for securing such clearance are paid by the centre.

Invigilators' rates of pay are set by the school in association with TLP. .

Invigilators are recruited, timetabled, trained and briefed by the Examinations Officer.

Malpractice

The head of centre in consultation with the Examinations Officer is responsible for investigating suspected malpractice.

Exam days

The exams officer will book all exam rooms after liaison with other users and make the question papers, other exam stationery and materials available for the invigilation team.

Site management staff are responsible for setting up the allocated rooms, and will be advised of requirements a minimum of two weeks in advance.

The Examinations Officer, the Examinations Assistant or the Lead Invigilator will start and finish all exams in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Subject staff may be present at the start of the exam to assist with identification of candidates. Any staff present must be in accordance with the rules defined by JCQ concerning who is allowed in the exam room and what they can do.

In practical exams, subject teachers' availability will be in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Exam papers must not be read by subject teachers or removed from the exam room before the end of a session. Papers will be distributed to heads of department in accordance with JCQ's recommendations the day after candidates have completed them.

After an exam, the exams officer will arrange for the safe dispatch of completed examination scripts to awarding bodies, working in conjunction with the Lead Examinations Invigilator(s).

Candidates

The exams officer will provide written information to candidates in advance of each exam series. A formal briefing session for candidates may be given by the Deputy Headteacher.

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.

In an exam room candidates must not have access to items other than those clearly allowed in the instructions on the question paper, the stationery list, or the specification for that subject. This is particularly true of mobile phones and other electronic communication or storage devices with text or digital facilities. Any precluded items must not be taken into an exam room.

Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Candidates are expected to stay for the full exam time at the discretion of the Exams Officer.

Note: candidates who leave an exam room must be accompanied by an appropriate member of staff at all times.

The Exams Officer is responsible for handling late or absent candidates on exam day.

Clash candidates

The Exams Officer will be responsible as necessary for supervising escorts, identifying a secure venue and arranging overnight stays.

Special consideration

Should a candidate be unable to attend an exam because of illness, suffer bereavement or other trauma, be ill or otherwise disadvantaged or disturbed during an exam, then it is the candidate's responsibility to alert the centre's Exams Officer to that effect.

The candidate must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence within three days of the exam.

The exams officer will make a special consideration application to the relevant awarding body within seven days of the final exam for that subject.

Internal assessment/ Non Examined Assessment

It is the duty of Hheads of Department to ensure that all internal assessment is ready for dispatch at the correct time. The exams officer will assist by keeping a record of each dispatch, including the recipient details and the date and time sent.

Marks for all internally assessed work are provided to the exams office by the Heads of Department. The exams officer will inform staff of the date when appeals against internal assessments must be made by. Any appeals will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's Internal Appeals Procedure (IAP) document.

Results

Candidates will receive individual results slips on results days,

- in person at the centre
- by post to their home address - candidates to provide a self-addressed envelope
- collected by a third party on production of a letter of consent

The results slip will be in the form of a centre produced document.

Arrangements for the centre to be open on results days are made by the Headteacher, Exams Officer and Caretaker.

The provision of the necessary staff on results days is the responsibility of the SLT.

Enquiries about Results (EAR)

EARs may be requested by centre staff or the candidate following the release of results. A request for a re-mark or clerical check requires the written consent of the candidate, a request for a re-moderation of internally assessed work may be submitted without the consent of the group of candidates.

The cost of EARs will be paid by the centre or candidate depending on who has requested the EAR.

All decisions on whether to make an application for an EAR will be made by Heads of Department and candidates and be agreed by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher

If a candidate's request for an EAR is not supported, the candidate may appeal and the centre will respond by following the process in its Internal Appeals Procedure (IAP) document.

All processing of EARs will be the responsibility of the Exams Officer following the JCQ guidance.

Access to Scripts (ATS)

After the release of results, candidates may ask subject staff to request the return of written exam papers within fourteen days of the receipt of results.

Centre staff may also request scripts for investigation or for teaching purposes. The consent of candidates must be obtained.

The cost of ATSs will be paid by the centre or candidate depending on who has requested the ATS.

Processing of requests for ATS will be the responsibility of the Exams Officer.

Certificates

Candidates will receive their certificates

- in person at the centre
- posted (recorded delivery)

Certificates can be collected on behalf of a candidate by third parties, provided they have written authority from the candidate to do so, and bring suitable identification with them that confirms who they are.

The centre retains certificates for five years.

A new certificate will not be issued by an awarding organisation. A transcript of result may be issued if a candidate agrees to pay the costs incurred.

Head of centre

Exams officer

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Date

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