

We are an ambitious and inclusive Trust of schools
strengthening communities through excellent education.



Sidmouth College Exam Policy

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Policy Statement

- 1.1 We are an ambitious and inclusive Trust of schools, strengthening our communities through excellent education. We are committed to providing excellent education for every child, every day and aim to strengthen the work with our communities to continue to improve outcomes for our children.
- 1.2 Our Trust is committed to ensuring that exams are managed and administered effectively.
- 1.3 The aim of this policy is to ensure:
 - The planning and management of exams is conducted in the best interest of candidates
 - Our system of exams administration is efficient and clear, and staff and pupils understand what is required and expected of them
 - We comply with requirements and guidance set out by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and awarding bodies

2.0 Scope and Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this 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
- 2.2 It is the responsibility of everyone involved in the centre's exam processes to read, understand, and implement this policy.
- 2.3 Where references are made to JCQ regulations/guidelines, further details can be found at www.jcq.org.uk.

3.0 Definition

- 3.1 For the purpose of this document:
 - The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust is referenced to as the Ted Wragg Trust or TWT or the Trust.
 - The School, College or Academy is referenced to as the school.

4.0 Legal Framework

- 4.1 This Policy will be published on the school website and will be included in the Trust's Policy Monitoring Schedule.

5.0 Exam responsibilities

- 5.1 Head of Centre:
 - has overall responsibility for the school/college as an exams centre and advises on appeals and review of marking.
 - Is the individual who is accountable to the awarding bodies for ensuring that the centre is compliant with the JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements.
 - Is responsible for ensuring that all staff comply with the [JCQ guidelines](#).
 - Is responsible for ensuring that all suspected or actual incidents of malpractice are reported, in line with the JCQ guidance on [malpractice in examinations and assessments](#).
 - Ensures that [JCQ guidance for centres on cyber security](#) is followed.
 - Ensures that accurate candidate contact information is obtained and maintained.

- Ensures appropriate controls are in place that allow accurate data to be submitted to the awarding bodies, e.g. entries and internally assessed marks.
- Ensures that candidates are entered under names that can be verified against suitable identification such as a birth certificate or passport. A candidate should only be entered under alternative names in exceptional circumstances.

5.2 Exams Officer:

- Manages the administration of internal and or external exams.
- Advises the senior leadership team (SLT), subject and class tutors, and other relevant support staff on annual exams timetables and procedures as set by awarding bodies.
- Ensures that candidates and their parents/carers are informed of, and understand, 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 securely stores all exam papers and completed scripts, and ensure that scripts are dispatched as per the guidelines.
- Ensures candidates receive access arrangements as requested by the SENCo
- Submits applications for special consideration following the regulations in the JCQ [guidance on 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/controlled assessment marks are submitted correctly and on schedule, along with any other material required by the awarding bodies.
- Tracks, dispatches and stores returned coursework/controlled assessments
- Arranges for dissemination of exam results and certificates to candidates, and forward, in consultation with the SLT, any post-results service requests.
- Reports all suspected or actual incidents of malpractice, in line with the JCQ guidance on suspected malpractice in examinations and assessments to the Head of Centre
- Advises on appeals and review of marking.
- Are 1 of the key holders to the secure room with question papers and pre-release materials.

5.3 Heads of Department

- Advises the Exams Officer of any changes to syllabus or assessment details for their subjects.
- Advises the Exams Officer of entries for their subjects.
- Gives guidance and pastoral care for candidates who are unsure about exams entries or amendments to entries.
- Accurately completes entry and mark sheets and adhering to deadlines as set by the Exams Officer.
- Accurately completes coursework/controlled assessment mark sheets and declaration sheets.
- Decides on post-results procedures.

5.4 Teachers

- Supplying information about entries, coursework and controlled assessments as required by the Head of Department and/or the Exams Officer.

5.5 Special Needs Coordinator (SENCO)

- Identification and testing of candidates' requirements for access arrangements and notifying the Exams Officer in good time so they can put exam day arrangements in place.
- Processing any necessary applications in order to gain approval (if required)
- Working with the Exams Officer to provide the access arrangements required by candidates in exam rooms.

5.6 Candidates

- Confirming and signing entries
- Understanding coursework/controlled assessment regulations and signing a declaration that confirms the coursework to be their own.
- Ensuring they conduct themselves in all exams according to the JCQ regulations.

6.0 Qualifications offered

6.1 The Headteacher decides on the qualifications offered by the school.

6.2 We offer the following types of qualifications:

- GCSE
- A Level
- EPQ
- BTEC
- Cambridge National
- Level 1/Level 2 Technical Award

6.3 If there will be a change to a specification for the next year, the Exams Officer must be informed before the teaching commences for the new specification.

6.4 The specification is the actual content/syllabus of the exam (as opposed to qualification type or subject). For instance, switching from Cambridge OCR to AQA for English.

6.5 Informing the Exams Officer of changes to a specification is the responsibility the relevant Head of Department.

6.6 Decisions on whether a candidate should be entered for a particular subject will be taken by SLT and the relevant Head of Department in consultation with teachers and the SENCo.

7.0 Exams Series

7.1 Internal exams Internal exams (mock or trial exams) and assessments are scheduled in the following exam series:

- November – Year 11 and Year 13
- February/March – Year 11 and Year 13
- May/June – Year 10 and Year 12

- 7.2 External exams and assessments are scheduled in the following exam series:
- November – GCSE English Language & Maths
 - January – BTEC, Cambridge Nationals
 - May/June – GCSE, A Level, BTEC, Cambridge National, EPQ, Level1/2 Technical Award
- 7.3 Internal exams are held under external exam conditions.
- 7.4 The Head of Centre decides which exam series are used in the centre.
- 7.5 The centre does not offer assessments on an on-demand basis.

8.0 Exam Timetables

- 8.1 Once confirmed, the Exams Officer will circulate the exam timetables for internal and external exams at a specified date before each series begins.
- 8.2 Only applies to AQA, Cambridge OCR, Pearson and WJEC AS Further Mathematics, AS Mathematics, A-level Further Mathematics or A-level Mathematics examinations:**

Where a candidate has a timetable clash involving an AS Further Mathematics, AS Mathematics, A-level Further Mathematics or A-level Mathematics examination, a centre cannot move the examination to the morning session.

An AS Further Mathematics, AS Mathematics, A-level Further Mathematics or A-level Mathematics examination must always be sat in the published afternoon session as per the awarding body's timetable.

For further information please see the JCQ document Timetable clashes involving an AS Further Mathematics, AS Mathematics, A-level Further Mathematics or A-level Mathematics examination, which may be found at: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice---instructions-for-conducting-examinations>].

9.0 Entries, entry details and late entries

- 9.1 Candidates or parents/carers cannot request a subject entry, change of level or withdrawal.
- 9.2 The centre does not accept entries from private candidates.
- 9.3 The centre does not act as an exams centre for other organisations.
- 9.4 Entry deadlines are circulated to Heads of Department/curriculum via email and briefing meetings.
- 9.5 Heads of Department will provide entry information to the Exams Officer to meet JCQ and awarding body deadlines.
- 9.6 Entries and amendments made after an awarding organisation's deadline (i.e. late) require the authorisation, in writing, of Heads of Department and the Head of Centre.
- 9.7 GCSE re-sits are allowed for students on roll in the Sidmouth College Sixth Form.
- 9.8 A level re-sits are allowed in exceptional circumstances requiring approval by the Head of Sixth Form and the Head of Centre.
- 9.9 Re-sit decisions will be made by the Head of Sixth Form and Head of Centre in consultation with the relevant Head of Department.

10.0 Exam Fees

- 10.1 Candidates or departments will not be charged for changes of tier, withdrawals made by the proper procedures or alterations arising from administrative processes provided these are made within the time allowed by the awarding bodies.
- 10.2 The Exams Officer will publish the deadline for actions well in advance for each exams series.

- 10.3 GCSE entry exam fees are paid by the centre.
- 10.4 A level entry exam fees are paid by the centre.
- 10.5 Late entry or amendment fees are paid by the department.
- 10.6 Fee reimbursements are sought from candidates:
- if they fail to sit an exam;
 - if they do not meet the necessary coursework requirements without medical evidence or evidence of other mitigating circumstances.
- 10.7 Re-sit fees are paid by the centre for the first attempt at GCSE English and Maths resits. Subsequent attempts require the candidate to pay the entry fee.

11.0 Equality Legislation

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

12.0 Access Arrangements

- 12.1 The SENCo 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.
- 12.2 A candidate's access arrangements requirement is determined by the SENCo.
- 12.3 Ensuring there is appropriate evidence for a candidate's access arrangement is the responsibility of SENCo.
- 12.4 Submitting completed access arrangement applications to the awarding bodies is the responsibility of the SENCo.
- 12.5 Rooming for access arrangement candidates will be arranged by the Exams Officer.
- 12.6 Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates, as defined in the JCQ access arrangements regulations, will be organised by the Exams Officer.

13.0 Contingency planning

- 13.1 Contingency planning for exams administration is the responsibility of the Head of Centre.
- 13.2 Contingency plans are in line with the guidance provided by Ofqual, JCQ and awarding organisations.

14.0 Estimated grades

- 14.1 Heads of Department are responsible for submitting estimated grades to the Data Officer when requested.

15.0 Managing invigilators

- 15.1 External staff will not be used to invigilate examinations.
- 15.2 Invigilators will be used for internal exams and external exams.
- 15.3 Recruitment of invigilators is the responsibility of the Exams Officer.
- 15.4 Securing the necessary Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) clearance for new invigilators is the responsibility of the HR Administrator.
- 15.5 DBS fees for securing such clearance are paid by the centre.
- 15.6 Invigilators' rates of pay are set by the Ted Wragg Trust.

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

16.0 Malpractice

16.1 The Head of Centre in consultation with the Exams Officer is responsible for investigating suspected malpractice.

17.0 Exam days

17.1 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 invigilator.

17.2 Site management staff are responsible for setting up the allocated rooms, and will be advised of requirements in advance by the Exams Officer.

17.3 The Invigilators will start and finish all exams in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

17.4 Senior Leadership Team members 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.

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

17.6 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.

17.7 After an exam, the Exams Officer will arrange for the safe dispatch of completed examination scripts to awarding bodies.

18.0 Candidates

18.1 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 Head of Centre or SLT.

18.2 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.

18.3 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. Candidates must follow JCQ regulations with regard to prohibited items not being taken in to the exam room.

18.4 Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Candidates are expected to stay for the full exam time.

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

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

19.0 Clash candidates

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

20.0 Special consideration

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

20.2 The candidate must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence within 5 days of the exam.

20.3 The Exams Officer will make a special consideration application to the relevant awarding body in accordance with the Awarding Bodies deadlines.

21.0 Internal assessment

21.1 It is the duty of Heads 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.

21.2 Marks for all internally assessed work are provided to the Exams Officer 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.

22.0 Results

22.1 Candidates will receive individual results slips on results days in person at the centre.

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

22.3 Arrangements for the centre to be open on results days are made by the Exams Officer.

22.4 The provision of the necessary staff on results days is the responsibility of Head of Centre.

23.0 Enquiries about Results (EAR)

23.1 EARs may be requested by centre staff or the candidate following the release of results. A request for a review of marking 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.

23.2 The cost of EARs will be paid by the centre or the candidate.

23.3 All decisions on whether to make an application for an EAR will be made by the Head of Centre.

23.4 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.

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

24.0 Access to Scripts (ATS)

24.1 After the release of results, candidates may ask subject staff to request copies of written exam papers in accordance with the deadlines set by the Awarding Bodies.

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

24.3 An EAR cannot be applied for once an original script has been returned.

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

25.0 Certificates

25.1 Candidates will receive their certificates by collecting and signing for them in person.

25.2 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.

25.3 The centre retains certificates for 12 months.

25.4 A new certificate will not be issued by an awarding body. A transcript of results may be issued if a candidate agrees to pay the costs incurred directly with the awarding body.