



# St Matthew Academy

## WORD PROCESSOR (EXAMS) Policy

*Our motto is 'Let your light shine'. It is taken from St Matthew's Gospel and captures our belief in the uniqueness of each individual. Our aim is to ensure that the talents and strengths of each pupil are encouraged, developed and celebrated*

Successful, confident learners

High expectations, outstanding achievements

Inclusive, caring, Catholic community

Nurturing talent, cultivating ambition

Excellence for all

<b>Date of Approval</b>	<b>Autumn 2020</b>
<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Autumn 2021</b>

## Key staff involved in awarding and allocating word processors for exams

Role	Name(s)
Head of Centre	Ms M Baldwin
SENCo	Mr H Vyas
Exams officer	Ms F Walker
Exams officer line manager (Senior Leader with oversight of exams administration)	Ms S Wickliffe
Senior Leaders	Ms Heywood, Mr A Young
IT manager	RM Unify

This policy is reviewed and updated annually on the publication of updated JCQ regulations and guidance on access arrangements and instructions for conducting exams.

References in this policy to AA and ICE relate to/are directly taken from the **JCQ publications Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments** and **Instructions for conducting examinations**.

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## Introduction

The use of a word processor in exams and assessments is an available access arrangement.

The purpose of an access arrangement is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing them from being placed at a substantial disadvantage as a consequence of persistent and significant difficulties.

The following principles are applied to access arrangements at St Matthew Academy:

- The purpose of an access arrangement is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing him/her from being placed at a substantial disadvantage as a consequence of persistent and significant difficulties. The integrity of the assessment is maintained, whilst at the same time providing access to assessments for a disabled candidate. (AA 4.2.1)
- Although access arrangements are intended to allow access to assessments, they are not granted where they will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question. (AA 4.2.2)
- Although access arrangements are intended to allow access to assessments, they are not granted where they will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question. (AA 4.2.2)
- Candidates may not require the same access arrangements in each specification. Subjects and their methods of assessments may vary, leading to different demands of the candidate. SENCoS must consider the need for access arrangements on a subject-by-subject basis. (AA 4.2.3)
- The SENCo must ensure that the proposed access arrangement does not disadvantage or advantage a candidate. (AA 4.2.1)
- The candidate must have had appropriate opportunities to practise using the access arrangement(s) before their first examination. (AA 4.2.7)

## Purpose of the policy

This policy details how St Matthew Academy complies with AA (chapter 4) **Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties**, (section 5.8) **Word processor and ICE** (sections 14.20-25) **Word processors (computers, laptops and tablets)** when awarding and allocating a candidate the use of word processor in examinations.

The term 'word processor' is used to describe for example, the use of a computer, laptop or tablet.

## The use of a word processor

St Matthew Academy will:

- allocate the use of a word processor to a candidate where it is their normal way of working within the centre (AA 5.8.1)
- award the use of a word processor to a candidate if it is appropriate to their needs (AA 5.8.4)  
Needs may include:
  - a learning difficulty which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to write legibly
  - a medical condition
  - a physical disability
  - a sensory impairment
  - planning and organisational problems when writing by hand
  - poor handwriting (AA 5.8.4)
- only permit the use of a word processor where the integrity of the assessment can be maintained (AA 4.2.1)

- not grant the use of a word processor where it will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question (AA 4.2.2)
- consider on a subject-by-subject basis if the candidate will need to use a word processor in each specification (AA 4.2.3)
- consider the needs of the candidate at the start of the candidate's course leading to a qualification based on evidence gathered that firmly establishes the candidate's needs and 'normal way of working' in the classroom, internal tests/exams, mock exams etc. and confirm arrangements in place before the candidate takes an exam or assessment (AA 4.2.4)
- provide access to word processors to candidates in non-examination assessment components as standard practice unless prohibited by the specification (AA 5.8.2)

St Matthew Academy will not:

- simply grant the use of a word processor to a candidate because he/she prefers to type rather than write or can work faster on a keyboard, or because he/she uses a laptop at home (AA 5.8.4)

### **Exceptions**

The only exceptions to the above where the use of a word processor would be considered for a candidate would be

- in the event of a temporary injury or impairment, or a diagnosis of a disability or manifestation of an impairment relating to an existing disability arising after the start of the course (AA 4.2.4)
- where a subject within the curriculum is delivered electronically and the centre provides word processors to all candidates (AA 5.8.4)

### **Arrangements at the time of the assessment for the use of a word processor**

A candidate using a word processor is accommodated in a designated exam room assigned by the SENCo and Exams Officer prior to the exam on a case by case basis.

In the case of on screen testing where a subject within the curriculum is delivered electronically or controlled assessments, candidates will be:

- seated in a computer room
- at least one seat will be between candidates - dividers will be used where this is not possible

In compliance with the regulations, St Matthew Academy:

- provides a word processor with the spelling and grammar check facility/predictive text disabled (switched off) unless an awarding body's specification says otherwise (ICE 14.20)
- (where a candidate is to be seated with the main cohort without the use of a power point) checks the battery capacity of the word processor before the candidate's exam to ensure that the battery is sufficiently charged for the entire duration of the exam (ICE 14.21)
- ensures the candidate is reminded to ensure that his/her centre number, candidate number and the unit/component code appear on each page as a header or footer e.g. 12345/8001 – 6391/01 (ICE 14.22)
- If a candidate is using a software application that does not allow for the insertion of a header or footer, once the candidate has completed the examination and printed off their typed script, they are instructed to handwrite their details as a header or footer; the candidate is supervised throughout this process to ensure that they are solely performing this task and not re-reading their answers or amending their work in any way (ICE 14.22)
- ensures the candidate understands that each page of the typed script must be numbered, e.g. page 1 of 6 (ICE 14.23)
- ensures the candidate is reminded to save his/her work at regular intervals. (or where possible, an IT technician will set up 'autosave' on each laptop/tablet)
- instructs the candidate to use a minimum of 12pt font and double spacing in order to assist examiners when marking (ICE 14.24)

St Matthew Academy will ensure the word processor (ICE 14.25):

- is only used in a way that ensures a candidate's script is produced under secure conditions
- ensure the word processor is not used to perform skills which are being assessed
- ensure the word processor is not connected to an intranet or any other means of communication
- is in good working order at the time of the exam
- is accommodated in such a way that other candidates are not disturbed and cannot read the screen
- is used as a typewriter, not as a database, although standard formatting software is acceptable and is not connected to an intranet or any other means of communication
- is cleared of any previously stored data
- does not give the candidate access to other applications such as a calculator (where prohibited in the examination), spreadsheets etc.
- does not include graphic packages or computer aided design software unless permission has been given to use these
- does not have any predictive text software or an automatic spelling and grammar check enabled unless the candidate has been permitted a scribe or is using speech recognition technology (a scribe cover sheet must be completed), or the awarding body's specification permits the use of automatic spell checking
- does not include speech recognition technology unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe or relevant software
- is not used on the candidate's behalf by a third party unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe

### **Portable storage medium**

St Matthew Academy will ensure that any portable storage medium (e.g. a memory stick) used:

(ICE 14.25)

- is provided by the centre
- is cleared of any previously stored data

### **Printing the script after the exam is over**

St Matthew Academy will ensure that:

(ICE 14.25)

- the word processor is either connected to a printer so that a script can be printed off, or have the facility to print from a portable storage medium
- the candidate is present to verify that the work printed is his or her own
- a word processed script is attached to any answer booklet which contains some of the answers
- an awarding body requires a cover sheet to be completed this is included with the candidate's typed script (according to the relevant awarding body's instructions)
- if a candidate omits to insert the required header or footer, he/she is instructed to handwrite their details as a header or footer; the candidate is supervised throughout this process to ensure that he/she is solely performing this task and not re-reading their answers or amending their work in any way (ICE 14.22)

## **The criteria St Matthew Academy uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations**

JCQ regulations (**Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments**, section 5.8) state: A member of the centre's senior leadership team must produce a statement for inspection purposes which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations.

### **The criteria St Matthew Academy uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations**

St Matthew Academy confirms the normal way of working in examinations is:

- candidates handwrite responses on their examination scripts (an exception to this is where a candidate may have an approved access arrangement in place, for example the use of a scribe/speech recognition technology)

#### **The use of word processors**

There are exceptions when St Matthew Academy may award a candidate the use of a word processor in examinations where:

- the candidate has a firmly established need
- it reflects the candidate's normal way of working
- by not being awarded a word processor the candidate would be at a substantial disadvantage to other candidates

Needs might include where a candidate has, for example:

- a learning difficulty which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to write legibly
- a medical condition
- a physical disability
- a sensory impairment
- planning and organisational problems when writing by hand

(This list is not exhaustive)

The only exception to the above where the use of a word processor may be considered for a candidate would be:

- on a temporary basis as a consequence of a temporary injury at the time of the assessment
- where a subject within the curriculum is delivered electronically and the centre provides word processors to all candidates

#### **Allocating the use of word processors at the time of the assessment**

Appropriate exam-compliant word processors will be provided by the IT department in liaison with the SENCo and the exams officer.

In exceptional circumstances where the number of compliant word processors may be insufficient for the cohort of candidates approved to use them in an exam session:

- the cohort will be split into two groups
- one group will sit the exam earlier than or later than the awarding body's published start time
- the security of the exam will be maintained at all times and candidates will be supervised in line with section 7.2 of ICE

Statement produced by:

Name:

Role:

Statement date: