



# St Matthew Academy

## 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

Date of Approval	Autumn 2022
Review Date	Autumn 2023

## Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name(s)
Head of centre	Ms M Baldwin
Exams officer line manager (Senior Leader with oversight of exams administration)	Mr M Bradley
Exams officer	Ms F Walker
SENCo	Mr H Vyas
Senior Leaders	Ms J Chick, Mr A Young, Ms S Guest, Mr I Gunningham, Mrs S Vyas, Mr R Turner, Ms V Bryan, Ms V Dunne

### This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Access Arrangements (Exams) Policy
- Complaints and Appeals (Exams) Policy
- Data Protection (Exams) Policy
- Emergency Evacuation (Exams) Policy
- Equalities (Exams) Policy
- Exam Contingency Plan
- Exams Archiving Policy
- Internal Appeals (Exams) Policy
- Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) policy
- Special Consideration (Exams) Policy
- Whistleblowing (Exams) Policy
- Word Processor (Exams) Policy

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## Purpose of the policy

St Matthew Academy (the centre) is committed to ensuring that the exams 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 exams contingency plan, and other relevant exams-related policies, procedures and plans are signposted to
- the workforce is well informed and supported
- all centre staff involved in the exams process clearly understand their roles and responsibilities
- all exams and assessments are conducted according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions, thus maintaining the integrity and security of the exam/assessment system at all times
- exam candidates understand the exams process and what is expected of them
- It is the responsibility of everyone involved in the centre's exam processes to read, understand and implement this policy.

This policy is reviewed annually by the head of centre and the exams officer 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 exam policy will be shared with staff and candidates via the academy website. Relevant sections will also be highlighted to candidates via assemblies by the DoL or the senior leader with responsibility for exams.

## Roles and responsibilities overview

**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.

**The examinations officer** 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 may not appoint themselves as the examinations officer.** A head of centre and an examinations officer are two distinct and separate roles. ([GR, section 2](#))

### Head of centre responsibilities

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. **It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that all staff comply with the instructions in this booklet.** Failure to do so may constitute malpractice as defined in the JCQ publication

*Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures, 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023:*

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice> (ICE Introduction)

### 1. Head of centre

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
  - [General regulations for approved centres](#) (GR)
  - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#) (ICE)
  - [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#) (AA)
  - [Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures](#) (SMEA)
  - [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#) (NEA) (and the instructions for conducting coursework)
  - [A guide to the special considerations process](#) (SC)

- Ensures the centre has appropriate accommodation to support the size of the cohorts being taught including appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements
- Where/if using a third party to deliver any part of a qualification (including its assessments) at the centre:
  - maintains oversight of, and responsibility for, the delivery of the qualification in accordance with JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements
  - has in place a written agreement with the third party 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
- Ensures that relevant members of staff respond promptly to actions raised by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, understanding that failure to do so could result in the same penalties as listed in the previous bullet point
- 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
- Ensures members of centre staff do not advise parents/candidates to contact awarding bodies/JCQ directly nor provide them with addresses/email addresses of awarding body examining/assessment personnel or JCQ personnel

### **Recruitment, selection and training of staff**

- Retains a workforce of an appropriate size and competence, including sufficient managerial and other resource, to undertake the delivery of the qualification 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
- Provides fully qualified teachers to mark non-examination assessments, and/or fully qualified assessors for the verification of centre-assessed components
- Enables the relevant senior leader(s), exams officer (EO) and the SENCo to receive appropriate training and support from relevant centre staff in order to facilitate the effective delivery of exams and assessments within the centre and ensure compliance with the published JCQ regulations (as example, EO networking events and relevant events offered by awarding bodies, MIS providers and other external providers)
- Appoints a SENCo who will determine appropriate arrangements for candidates with learning difficulties and disabilities
- Ensures that the SENCo has sufficient time to both manage the access arrangements process within the centre and familiarise himself with the JCQ publication Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments
- Ensures that the examinations officer is line managed and actively supported by a member of the senior leadership team who has a good working knowledge of the examination system

### **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 administration, be absent<sup>1</sup>
- Has in place a member of the senior leadership team who will provide support and guidance to the examinations officer and ensure that the integrity and security of examinations and assessments is maintained throughout an examination series
- Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
- Makes sure that a teacher, a tutor or a senior member of centre staff who teaches the subject being examined, is not an invigilator during the examination

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<sup>1</sup> Details of escalation process are included in the Exam Contingency Plan

### **Delivery of qualifications**

- Delivers qualifications, as required by the awarding body, 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 reasonable adjustments for disabled candidates
- Enables candidates to receive sufficient and up to date laboratory experience, or relevant training where required by the subject concerned

### **Public Liability**

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

### **Security of assessment materials**

- Takes all reasonable steps to maintain the integrity of the examinations/assessments, including the security of all assessment materials, by ensuring:
  - the location of the centre's secure storage facility in a secure room which must only be used for the purpose of administering secure examination materials
  - the secure room only contains exam-related material
  - there are between two and six keyholders only, each of whom must fully understand their responsibilities as a key holder to the secure storage facility
  - access to the secure room and secure storage facility is restricted to the authorised two to six keyholders and staff approved by the head of centre are accompanied by a keyholder at all times
  - appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential examination materials are only handed over to authorised members of centre staff
  - appropriate arrangements are in place for handling secure electronic materials
  - the relevant awarding body is immediately informed if the security of question papers or confidential supporting instructions is put at risk
  - that when it is permitted to remove question papers packets from secure storage, and to avoid potential breaches of security, arrangements are in place to carefully check and record that the correct question paper packets are opened (If it is ever subsequently identified following this check that the wrong question paper packet has been opened, it will be resealed and the incident reported to the relevant awarding body's Malpractice Investigation Team immediately)
- 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 publication Instructions for conducting examinations
- Makes arrangements to receive and 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
- Allows candidates access to relevant pre-release materials on, or as soon as possible after, the date specified by the awarding bodies

### **Malpractice**

- Through taking an ethical approach and working proactively to avoid the occurrence of any malpractice among pupils and staff takes all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice/maladministration before, during and after assessments have taken place
- Ensures 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 publication Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures
- Ensures irregularities are investigated and informs the awarding bodies 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

### **Policies/procedures**

- Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place (that allow the senior leadership team to act immediately in the event of an emergency or staff absence)

#### **Exam contingency plan**

- Ensures that the centre's Exam Contingency Plan is reviewed and updated annually
- Ensures the plan is accessible to staff, parents, carers and candidates via the Academy website

#### **Internal Appeals Procedure**

- Ensures an internal appeals procedure (exams) is in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and (where relevant) their parents/carers
- Ensures the centre's internal appeals procedures (exams) is reviewed and updated annually
- Ensures the procedure is accessible to staff, parents, carers and candidates via the Academy website

#### **Equalities Policy**

- Ensures the centre's equalities policy demonstrating the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place and details the processes followed in respect of identifying the need for, requesting and implementing access arrangements
- Ensures the centre's equalities policy (exams) is reviewed and updated annually
- Ensures the policy is accessible to staff, parents, carers and candidates via the Academy website

#### **Complaints and Appeals Procedure (Exams)**

- Ensures a complaints and appeals procedure covering general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification is in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers
- Ensures the complaints and appeals procedure (exams) is reviewed and updated annually
- Ensures the procedure is accessible to staff, parents, carers and candidates via the Academy website

#### **Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy**

- Ensures the centre has a child protection/safeguarding policy in place, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements
- Ensures the policy is accessible to staff, parents, carers and candidates via the Academy website

#### **Data Protection Policy**

- Ensures the centre has a data protection policy in place that complies with General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 regulations
- Ensures the centre as a data protection policy (exams) that complies with General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 regulations
- Ensures the data protection policies are reviewed and updated annually
- Ensures the policies are accessible to staff, parents, carers and candidates via the Academy website

#### **Whistleblowing Policy**

- Ensures the centre has a whistleblowing policy in place and is drawn to the attention of candidates and staff
- Ensures the centre's whistleblowing policy is reviewed and updated annually

#### **Access Arrangements Policy**

- Ensures the centre has documented processes in place relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments
- Ensures the access arrangements policy (exams) is reviewed and updated annually
- Ensures the policy is accessible to staff, parents, carers and candidates via the Academy website

#### **Conflicts of Interest<sup>2</sup>**

- Ensures the relevant awarding bodies are informed before the published deadline for entries for each examination series of any potential **Conflict of Interest** where:
  - A member of centre staff is taking a qualification at the centre which includes internally assessed components/units (noting that being entered by the centre must be as a last resort where unable to find an alternative centre)

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix A for details of conflict of interest procedure

- A candidate is being taught and prepared for a qualification which included internally assessed components/units by a member of centre staff with a close relationship to the candidate
- Maintains clear records that confirm the measures taken/protocols in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected by the above, and where:
  - A member of the exams office staff has a close relationship to a candidate being entered for exams and assessments at the centre or another centre
  - A member of centre staff is taking a qualification at the centre which does not include internally assessed components/units (noting that being entered by the centre must be a last resort when unable to find an alternative centre)
  - A member of centre staff is taking a qualification at another centre

### **National Centre Number Register**

- Provides contact details and an address to which all correspondence in connection with the administration of examinations and assessments can be directed which must be the registered address of the centre
- Ensures the National Centre Number Register annual update is responded to by the end of October
- Takes responsibility for confirming, on an annual basis, that they are both aware of and adhering to the latest version of the JCQ's regulations. This confirmation is managed as part of the National Centre Number Register (NCNR) annual update
- Understands that this responsibility cannot be delegated to a member of the senior leadership team or the examinations officer, and acknowledges that failure to respond to the NCNR annual update, and/or 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**

- Co-operates with the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, an awarding body or a regulatory authority when subject to an inspection, an investigation or an unannounced visit, and takes all reasonable steps to comply with all requests for information or documentation made by an awarding body or regulatory authority as soon as is practical
- 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 him/herself with a photo ID card and must be accompanied throughout his/her tour of the premises, including inspection of the centre's secure storage facility

## **2. Exams officer**

- Understands the content of the annually updated JCQ publications including:
  - [General regulations for approved centres](#) (GR)
  - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#) (ICE)
  - [Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures](#) (SMEA)
  - [Post-Results Services](#) (PRS)
  - [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#) (NEA) (and the instructions for conducting coursework)
  - [A guide to the special considerations process](#) (SC)
- Completes/submit the National Centre Number Register annual update (administered on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies by OCR <https://ocr.org.uk/administration/ncn-annual-update/>) by the end of October each year
  - Confirms the details or informs the awarding bodies of any changes to the centre's contact details through the National Centre Number Register
  - Informs the National Centre Number Register Team immediately (e-mail address – [ncn@ocr.org.uk](mailto:ncn@ocr.org.uk)) if any changes occur after the National Centre Number Register annual update has taken place
  - (Where it may be applicable) Informs the National Centre Number Register Team no later than 6 weeks prior to moving to a new address or a re-location of the secure storage facility

Informs the National Centre Number Register Team immediately of any other changes in circumstances that could

affect the centre's status

- 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 SENCo 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 (where required) 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 for each examination series
- Briefs other relevant centre staff where they may be involved in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials on the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials

### **3. Senior leaders**

- Are familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
  - [General regulations for approved centres](#) (GR)
  - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#) (ICE)
  - [Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures](#) (SMEA)
  - [Post-results services](#) (PRS)
  - [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#) (NEA) (and the instructions for conducting coursework)
  - [A guide to the special considerations process](#) (SC)
- Ensure teaching staff undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process (exam cycle) and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and SENCo
- 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

### **4. Heads of department**

- Provide guidance and pastoral oversight of candidates who are unsure about exam entries or amendments to entries
- Undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and SENCo
- Have involvement in post-results procedures
- Ensure accurate completion of coursework mark sheets and declaration sheets
- Ensure accurate completion of entry and all other mark sheets and adherence to deadlines as set by the exams officer
- Ensures teaching staff keep themselves updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Keep updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Attend relevant awarding body training and update events

### **5. SENCo**

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#) (AA)
- Leads on and administers the access arrangements and reasonable adjustments process (referred to in this policy as 'access arrangements')

- Identification and testing of candidates, requirements for access arrangements
- Provision of additional support — with spelling, reading, mathematics, dyslexia or essential skills, hearing impairment, English for speakers of other languages, IT equipment — to help candidates achieve their course aims
- 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 JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification

## **6. Reception staff**

- Support the EO in the receipt and dispatch of confidential exam materials and follow the requirements for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the exam materials
- Follow the process to log confidential materials delivered to/received by the centre to the point materials are issued to authorised staff for placing in the secure storage facility

## **7. Lead invigilator/invigilators**

- Attend/undertake training (on the current regulations), annual 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
- Collection of exam papers and other material from the exams officer before the start of the exam
- Collation of all exam papers in the correct order at the end of the exam and their return to the exams officer

## **8. Site Staff**

- Support EO in relevant matters relating the exam rooms and resources

## **9. Candidates**

- Checking entries and raising any issues with Head of Department/Exams Officer
- Understanding coursework/NEA regulations and signing a declaration that authenticates the coursework as their own  
(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 often referred to as the exam cycle and relevant tasks required within this 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.

### **1. Planning: roles and responsibilities**

#### **Information Sharing**

##### **Head of Centre**

- Directs relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including GR, ICE, AA, SM, NEA (and the instructions for conducting coursework) and SC

## Exams Officer

- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ publications and awarding body documentation relating to the exams process that have been updated
  - Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ information that should be provided to candidates
- As the centre administrator, approves relevant access rights for centre staff to access awarding body secure extranet sites

## Information Gathering

### Exams officer

- 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 to enable preparation for and conduct of the ranking examinations

### Senior leaders

- Responds (or ensures teaching staff respond) to requests from the EO on information gathering
- Meets the internal deadline for the return of information
- Informs the EO 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 there is appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements in the centre for all examinations and assessments
- Ensures a written process is in place to not only check the qualification of the appointed assessor, but that the correct procedures are followed as per Chapter 7 of the JCQ publication [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#)
- Ensures the SENCo is fully supported in effectively implementing access arrangements and reasonable adjustments once approved

### SEnCo

- Assesses candidates to identify access arrangements/reasonable adjustments 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** of an affected candidate
- Determines candidate eligibility for arrangements or adjustments that are centre-delegated
- Gathers signed **Personal data consent**, forms from candidates where required and ensures **Data Protection confirmation(s)** by the EO or SENCo are completed
- Applies for **approval** through **Access arrangements online** (AAO) via **Centre Admin Portal** (CAP), where required or through the awarding bod where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Keeps a file for each candidate for JCQ inspection purposes containing all the required documentation (if documentation is stored 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 EO regarding exam time arrangement candidates
- Ensures staff appointed to facilitate access arrangements for access arrangements for candidates are appropriately 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 EO to ensure invigilators and those acting as a facilitator fully understand their respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room

- Adheres to the centre policy on the **use of word processors**<sup>3</sup> in exams and assessments
- Ensures the criteria for candidates granted **separate invigilation within the centre**<sup>4</sup> is clear, meets JCQ regulations and best meets the needs of the individual candidate and remaining candidate in the main exam rooms

### **Senior leaders, Heads of department and Teaching staff**

- Support the SENCo in determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements/reasonable adjustments
- 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**

Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments<sup>5</sup>

#### **Head of centre**

- Ensures arrangements are in place to co-ordinate and standardise all marking of centre- assessed components and ensures that candidates' centre-assessed work is produced, authenticated and marked, or assessed and quality assured in accordance with the awarding bodies' instructions (including where relevant, private candidates)
- Ensures that teaching staff, in accordance with awarding bodies' instructions, return all subject-specific forms by the required date
- Provides fully qualified teachers to mark non-examination assessments, and/or fully qualifies assessors for the verification of centre assessed components
- Ensures an **internal appeals procedure** relating to internal assessment decisions is in place for a candidate to appeal against and request a review of the centre's marking (see Roles and responsibilities overview)
- Ensures a **non-examination assessment policy** is in place for GCSE qualifications which include components of non-examination assessment
- Ensures any irregularities relating to the production of work by candidates are investigated and dealt with internally if discovered prior to a candidate signing the authentication statement (where required) or reported to the awarding body if a candidate has signed the authentication statement

#### **Senior Leaders/Head of Department**

- 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 (including where relevant, private candidates)
- Ensure appropriate internal moderation, standardisation and verification processes are in place
- Ensure teaching staff delivering AQA Applied General qualifications, OCR Cambridge Nationals, Entry Level Certificate or Project qualifications follow JCQ [Instructions for conducting coursework](#) and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensure teaching staff delivering reformed GCSE specifications (which include components of non-examination assessment) follow JCQ [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#) and the specification provided by the awarding body
- For other qualifications, ensure teaching staff follow appropriate instructions issued by the awarding body
- Ensure 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

<sup>3</sup> Full details of the use of word processors is included in the Word Processor (Exams) Policy on the academy website

<sup>4</sup> Full details of the separate invigilation policy is at appendix B

<sup>5</sup> See the Non-Examination Assessments Policy on the Academy website for full details

internally assessed (controlled 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

#### **SENCo**

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

#### **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 (including where relevant, private candidates)
- Ensure appropriate internal moderation, standardisation and verification processes are in place

#### **Exams officer**

- Identifies relevant key dates and administrative processes that need to be followed in relation to internal assessment
- Signposts teaching staff to relevant JCQ [Information for candidates documents](#) that are annually updated

#### **Invigilation**

##### **Head of centre**

- Ensures relevant support is provided to the EO 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 (and not taking on its own an assurance from a recruitment agency, that this is the case)
- 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

##### **Exams Officer**

- 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/malpractice sanctions are applied to them
- Provides training for new invigilators on the current instructions for conducting examinations and an annual 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 and 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

## **2. Entries: roles and responsibilities**

#### **Estimated Entries**

##### **Exams officer**

- Requests estimated or early entry information, where this may be required by awarding bodies, from HoDs in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met
- Makes candidates aware of the **JCQ Information for candidates – Privacy Notice** at the start of a vocational qualification or when entries are being processed for a general qualification

## **Final Entries**

### **Exams officer**

- Requests final entry information from HoDs in a timely manner to ensure awarding body external deadlines for submission can be met
- Informs HoDs of subsequent deadlines for making changes to final entry information without charge
- Confirms with HoDs 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
- Observes each awarding body's terms and conditions for the entry and withdrawal of candidates for their examinations and assessments, and observes any regulatory requirements for the qualification

### **Senior leaders/Head of department**

- Provides information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- Informs the EO 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 EO and confirms information is correct

## **Entry Fees**

- The centre will pay all normal exam fees on behalf of candidates. Late entry or amendment fees are paid by departments.
- 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.

## **Late Entries**

### **Exams officer**

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

### **Senior leaders**

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

## **Private Candidates**

The centre does not accept entries from private candidates

## **Candidate Statements of Entry**

### **Exams officer**

- Provides candidates with statements of entry for checking

### **Teaching staff**

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

### **Candidates**

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

### **3. Pre-exams: roles and responsibilities**

#### **Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments**

##### **SENCo**

- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access to exams/assessments for candidates where they are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act (unless a temporary emergency arrangement is required at the time of an exam)
- Ensures a candidate is involved in any decisions about arrangements, adjustments and/or adaptations that may be put in place for him/her
- Ensures exam information (JCQ information for candidates documents, individual exam timetable etc) is adapted where this may be required for a disabled 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 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 (including distance learners and home educated candidates) and that the candidate is assessed by the centre's appointed assessor

#### **Briefing Candidates**

##### **Exams Officer**

- Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates and informs candidates of any designated contingency day awarding bodies may identify in the event of national or local disruption to exams
- Prior to exams issues relevant JCQ information for candidates documents
- 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<sup>6</sup> information and how the centre will deal with requests from candidates when and how certificates will be issued

#### **Dispatch of exam scripts**

##### **Exams officer**

- 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

#### **Estimated grades**

##### **Senior leaders/Heads of Department**

- Ensure teaching staff provide estimated grade information to the EO by the internal deadline (where this still may be required by the awarding body)

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<sup>6</sup> See Appendix C for details of the Access to Scripts, Review of Results and Appeals Procedure

**Exams officer**

- Submits estimated grade information to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline (where this may still be required by the awarding body)
- Keeps a record to track what has been sent

**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

**SENCo**

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

**Teaching staff**

- Support the SENCo 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**

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

**Exams officer**

- 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**

- Authenticate their work as required by the awarding body

**Invigilation****Exams Officer**

- Provides an annually reviewed/updated invigilator handbook to invigilators, trains new invigilators on the current regulations on appointment and updates experienced invigilators on any regulation changes and any changes to centre-specific processes
- 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, reader or scribe) are accommodated on a 1:1 basis to enter the room at regular intervals in order to observe the conducting of

the exam, ensure all relevant rules are being adhered to and to support the practical assistant/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 SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates

#### **SEnCo**

- Liaises with the EO regarding facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates

#### **Invigilators**

- Provide information as requested on their availability to invigilate throughout an exam series

#### **JCQ Inspections**

##### **Exams Officer or Senior leader**

- Will accompany the Inspector throughout the visit

##### **SEnCo or relevant Senior leader** (in the absence of the SENCo on the day)

- 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<sup>7</sup>**

##### **Exams Officer**

- Ensures a procedure is in place to verify candidate identity
- 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 for verifying candidate identity provided by the EO
- Seat candidates in exam rooms as instructed by the EO/on the seating plan

#### **Security of exam materials**

##### **Exams officer**

- Confirms appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential materials are only handed over to those authorised by the head of centre
- Ensures access to the secure room is restricted and staff approved by the head of centre are accompanied by a keyholder at all times. There must be between two and six keyholders only, each of whom must fully understand their responsibilities as a key holder to the secure storage facility
- Has a process in place to demonstrate the receipt of secure movement and secure storage of confidential exam material 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 in the secure storage facility until they can be removed from the dispatch packaging and checked in the secure room before being placed in the secure storage facility in timetable order
- Carefully checks question paper packets when they are removed from the dispatch packing and keeps a log of the check

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<sup>7</sup> See Appendix D for the Candidate Identification Procedure

- 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 room stationary 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 an area that can be controlled to prevent unauthorised personnel accessing live assessment materials and ensuring only authorised members of centre staff have access to electronic question papers)

#### **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 officer**

- 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 arrangements<sup>8</sup> as a last resort, once all other options have been exhausted)
- Identifies exam rooms and specialist equipment requirements
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to a timetable variation) 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 SENCo regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates

#### **SEnCo**

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

### **Alternative site arrangements**

#### **Exams officer**

- Ensures question papers will only be taken to an alternative site where the published criteria for an alternative site arrangement has been met
- Will inform the JCQ Centre Inspection Service to timescale by submitting a JCQ Alternative Site arrangement notification 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 officer**

- Liaises with the host or entering centre, as required
- Processes requests for Transferred Candidate arrangements using CAP to the awarding body deadline (or through the awarding body where a qualification may sit outside the scope of CAP)

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<sup>8</sup> See Appendix D for the Overnight Supervision Arrangements Policy

- Where relevant (for an internal candidate) informs the candidate of the arrangements that have been made for their transferred candidate arrangements

### **Internal exams**

#### **Exams officer**

- Prepares for the conduct of internal exams 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

#### **SENCo**

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

#### **Teaching staff**

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

## **4. Exam time: roles and responsibilities**

### **Access Arrangements**

#### **Exams officer/SENCo**

- Provides cover sheets for access arrangements candidates' scripts where required for particular arrangements
- Has a process in place to deal with emergency/temporary access arrangements as they arise at the time of the exam
- Applies for approval through AAO where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

### **Candidate absence<sup>9</sup>**

#### **Exams Officer**

- Ensures that procedure is in place for dealing with candidate absence

#### **Senior leaders/DoL**

- Responsible for liaising with candidates regarding absence
- Liaises with exams officer

#### **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 behaviour**

- See full details under irregularities below

### **Candidate belongings**

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

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<sup>9</sup> See Appendix F for the Candidate Absence Policy

damage.

### **Candidate late arrival<sup>10</sup>**

#### **Exams officer**

- Ensures that procedure is in place for dealing with candidate lateness
- 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 using CAP to timescale as soon as practically possible after the exam has taken place
- Warns candidates that their script may not be accepted by the awarding body

#### **Senior leaders/DoL**

- Responsible for liaising with candidate regarding matters such as collecting from home

#### **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

### **Conducting Exams**

#### **Head of centre**

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

#### **Exams officer**

- 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 officer**

- Dispatches scripts as instructed by JCQ and awarding bodies
- Keeps appropriate records to record dispatch

### **Exam papers and materials**

#### **Exams officer**

- Organises exam question papers and associated confidential resources in date order in the secure storage facility
- Attaches erratum notices received to relevant sealed exam paper packets
- Collates attendance registers and examiner details in date order
- Regularly checks mail and 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 additional/second check is recorded
- Where allowed by the awarding body, only releases exam papers and materials to teaching departments for teaching and learning purposes after the published finishing time of the exam, or until any timetable clash candidates have completed the exam

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<sup>10</sup> See Appendix G for the Candidate Late Arrival Policy

## **Exam rooms**

### **Head of centre**

- Ensures that internal tests, mock exams, revision or coaching sessions for the exam candidates will not be held in the designated exam room(s)
- Ensure that when a room is 'designated' as an exam room it is not used for any other 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<sup>11</sup> that may be allowed in exam rooms is clearly communicated to candidates
- Ensures the centre's policy on candidates leaving the exam room temporarily<sup>12</sup> is clearly communicated to candidates

### **Exams officer**

- 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

### **Site staff**

- Ensure exam rooms are available and set up as requested by the EO
- 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

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<sup>11</sup> See Appendix H for the Food and Drink in Exam Rooms Policy

<sup>12</sup> See Appendix I for the Leaving the Exam Room Policy

## **Irregularities & Malpractice<sup>13</sup>**

### **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

### **Senior leaders**

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

### **Exams officer**

- 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)

### **Candidates**

- Are expected to adhere to JCQ Instructions for candidates and St Matthew Academy behaviour policy
- Any disruptive behaviour or unauthorised possessions will be dealt in with accordance with JCQ [Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures](#)
- Persistently disruptive candidates will be removed from the exam room

## **Special consideration<sup>14</sup>**

### **Senior leaders**

- Provide signed evidence to support eligible applications for special consideration

### **Exams officer**

- 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

### **Candidates**

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

## **Unauthorised items<sup>15</sup>**

### **Invigilators**

- Are informed of the arrangements through training

### **Internal exams**

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<sup>13</sup> See Appendix J: Managing behaviour in the exam room policy for details

<sup>14</sup> See the Special Considerations (Exams) Policy on the Academy website for full details

<sup>15</sup> See Appendix J: Managing behaviour in the exam room for full details

**Exams officer**

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

**Invigilators**

- Conduct internal exams as briefed by the EO

**5. Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities****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****Head of centre**

- Arrangements for the school to be open on results days are made by the head of centre
- The provision of staff on results days is the responsibility of the head of centre

**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 officer**

- Works with senior leaders to ensure procedures for managing the main summer results day

**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
- Understands that it is not permitted to withhold provisional results from candidates under any circumstance

**Data Manager**

- 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 in liaison with exams officer
- Issues statements of results to candidates on issue of results date in liaison with exams officer
- Provides summaries of results for relevant centre staff on issue of results data

### **Exams officer**

- Informs candidates in advance of when and how results will be released to them for each exam series
- Resolves any missing or incomplete results with awarding bodies in liaison with data manager
- Issues statements of results to candidates on issue of results date in liaison with data manager
- Provides broadsheets 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 re-clerical 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 component/subject cohorts, then requests for reviews of marking should be submitted for all candidates believed to be affected (candidate consent is required as marks and subject grades may be lowered, confirmed or raised)

#### **Exams officer**

- 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, Reviews of 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

#### **Senior leaders**

- Work with HODs to identify possible **ATS** (Access to script), **RoR** (Review of Results) and **appeals**
- Advise the exams officer when post-results services are required

#### **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 fees, where relevant

### **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://tableschecking.education.gov.uk>

### **Certificates**

- Certificates are provided to centres by awarding bodies after results have been confirmed
- Certificates may be collected by the candidate or on behalf of a candidate by a third party with relevant written communication and ID.
- Replacement certificates are only issued if a candidate agrees to pay the costs incurred.
- The centre retains certificates for two years after which these will be destroyed. A log will be kept of this.

## **6. Exams review: roles and responsibilities**

### **Exams officer**

- 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 review

### **Senior leaders**

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

## **7. Retention of records: roles and responsibilities**

### **Exams officer**

- 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<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> See the Exams Achieving Policy on the Academy website for full details

## Appendix A: Conflict of Interest (COI) Procedure

[GR 5.3]

### Head of centre

- Will decide if a candidate where a COI has been identified, will be entered for an external examination
- Understands that entering members of centre staff for qualifications at their own centre **must** be as a last resort where the member of staff is unable to find another centre

### Exams officer

- Will flag any potential COI to the senior leader with oversight of exams administration
- Will ensure that, if to be entered, the candidate completes an **Exams – Declaration of Interest Form**
- Will record the COI on the **Exams – Conflict of Interest Log**
- Will notify the relevant awarding bodies before the published deadline
- Will retain records of COI until the deadline for post-results services has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later

### Candidates

- Understands that entering members of centre staff for qualifications at their own centre **must** be as a last resort and will make every effort to find another centre
- Will complete and return the **Exams – Declaration of Interest Form** to the EO by the deadline set by the EO (prior to entry for the exam is made)

## Appendix B: Separate Invigilation Policy

### Introduction

Separate invigilation within the centre is an available access arrangement as defined in the JCQ regulations. This is an arrangement where a candidate may be eligible to take an examination outside of the main examination room(s), for example in a room for a smaller group of candidates

### Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the criteria when this arrangement may be considered and granted for a candidate at St Matthew Academy in compliance with the regulations.

### Decisions on the awarding of the arrangement

At St Matthew Academy, decisions on the awarding of the arrangement are made by the SENCo in liaison with the exams officer and senior leader with oversight of exams administration.

Decisions are based on:

- Whether the candidate has a substantial and long term impairment which has an adverse effect (AA 5.16)
- The candidate's normal way of working within the centre (AA 5.16)
- Ensuring the proposed arrangement does not disadvantage or advantage the candidate (AA 4.2.1)
- Nervousness, low level anxiety or being worried about examinations is not sufficient grounds for separate invigilation within the centre. (AA 5.16)

### Criteria for the awarding of the arrangement

Separate invigilation will be considered where the arrangement would prevent a candidate from being placed at a substantial disadvantage and where the following conditions are met:

- The candidate has an established difficulty as defined in section 5.16 of the JCQ's **Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments** publication (ICE 14.18)
- The candidate has a long-term medical condition or long term social, mental or emotional need (AA 5.16)
- The candidate's disability is established within the centre and known to senior leaders and/or SENCo
- Separate invigilation reflects the candidate's normal and current way of working in internal tests and mock examinations (AA 5.16)

Where a candidate is subject to separate invigilation within the centre, the regulations and guidance within the JCQ publication **Instructions for conducting examinations** will be adhered to, particularly in relation to accommodation and invigilation arrangements (ICE 14.18)

### Other rooming arrangements

At St Matthew Academy arrangements for seating candidates in rooms separate to the main cohort may be put in place in other circumstances. As and when applicable, these circumstances include where a candidate:

- has a small room access arrangement
- has a diagnosed medical condition which could cause disruption to other candidates
- needs to take frequent supervised rest breaks

## Appendix C: Enquiries about Results and Post Results Services Procedure

If, after the publication of results, a candidate is concerned that a particular result(s) may not be accurate and believes there may have been an error in the marking of their examination script, they should seek advice from their subject teacher or a senior leader who will be able to advise them about the options available to them.

Following the issue of results, the awarding bodies make post-results services available.  
A summary of the services available is below:

### Reviews of Results (RoRs):

- Service 1 – clerical re-check  
This is the only service that can be requested for objective tests (multiple-choice tests)
- Service 2 – review of marking
- Service 3 – review of moderation (this service is not available to an individual candidate)

### Access to Scripts (ATS):

- Copies of scripts to support reviews of marking
- Copies of scripts to support teaching and learning

If, after speaking to a member of staff, a candidate believes they are eligible for a post results service, the candidate can submit an 'Enquiry about results' (EARs) to St Matthew Academy. To do this, candidate should complete an Enquiry About Results (EARs) Form and submit it to the exams officer at [exams@stmatthewacademy.co.uk](mailto:exams@stmatthewacademy.co.uk)

Completion and submission of this form gives St Matthew Academy the candidate's written consent to request a post results service from the awarding body.

On receipt of an EARs Form, St Matthew Academy will:

- Investigate the feasibility of requesting a post results service by looking at the marks awarded for each component part of the qualification alongside any mark schemes, relevant result reports, grade boundary information etc. when made available by the awarding body to determine if they can support any concerns (The decision whether to support a candidate's EARs will be made by the senior leader with oversight of exams administration, the exams officer, teaching staff and the head of centre)
- If the centre supports the candidate's EARs, a request will be made to the awarding body at the centre's expense.
- If the centre does not support a candidate's EAR, and the candidate will be notified in writing. If the candidate does not agree with the decision, they may:
  - Lodge an appeal as laid out in the Internal Appeals (Exams) Policy<sup>17</sup>, or
  - Pay the cost of the post results service they are requesting to the centre to request the service on their behalf

### **Candidates should be aware that grades could go UP, DOWN or REMAIN THE SAME following a review of marking**

If a candidate makes a payment for a review of marking, and their grade subsequently goes up, the payment will be refunded.

All payments must be made via Parentpay BEFORE any post results services will be submitted to an awarding body.

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<sup>17</sup> The Internal Appeal (Exams) Policy can be found on the Academy website

## **Appendix D: Candidate Identification Procedure**

[GR 5]

The purpose of this procedure is to confirm that St Matthew Academy:

- verifies the identity of all candidates that it enters for examinations or assessments (GR 5.6)
- has processes in place to be satisfied that all candidate identities have been checked (GR 5.6)
- has written procedures in place to verify the identity of all candidates at the time of the examination or assessment (GR 5.9)

### **Process to check candidate identity**

#### **Internal candidates**

The identity of students on roll at St Matthew Academy is checked as part of the initial registration process. (GR 5.6)

#### **Private Candidates**

- Are only accepted in exceptional circumstances and if they are known to the Academy
- Members of staff will be on hand to assist with identification
- Private candidates will be required to produce photo identification (e.g. passport, driving licence) if requested
- Private candidates will follow the Academy sign in/out procedure for all visitors to site

### **Procedure to verify candidate identity at the time of the examination/assessment**

Invigilators are able to establish the identity of all candidates sitting examinations by following the arrangements in place to carry out adequate checks. (ICE 16.1)

#### **Exams Officer**

- Will provide candidate cards for use by invigilators
- Each candidate card will include:
  - Candidate's legal forename and last name
  - Candidate/exam number
  - Unique candidate identifier (UCI)
  - Candidate photo in colour (where available)
- Will produce seating plans for internal and external exams which include candidate's legal forename and last name, candidate number and their allocated seat
- Will produce list for display in line up area as guidance for candidates and academy staff
- Will assist with the identification of any private candidates

#### **Invigilators**

- Will place candidate cards in the top right hand corner of the candidate's assigned desk in accordance with the seating plan for each exam
- Will alert the EO or a member of academy staff is unsure of a candidates identity
- will be informed of those candidates with access arrangements and made aware of the particular access arrangement(s) awarded (ICE 16.4)

#### **Senior Leaders/DOL**

- Will ensure that the candidates line up in the designated area in rows as per the seating plan
- Will ensure that candidates are identified and enter the exam hall in the correct order
- Will assist with the identification of any private candidates

#### **Subject teaching staff**

- Will be available where possible to assist senior leaders/DOL with line-up of candidates

## Appendix E: Overnight Supervision Arrangements Policy

[ICE 8]

### Purpose of the policy

This purpose of this policy is to confirm that St Matthew Academy:

- follows the correct procedures when considering the arrangements for a candidate entered for multiple examinations timetabled for the same day
- reserves the right to exercise discretion when considering allowing a candidate to take an examination the following morning
- has appropriate arrangements in place to maintain the security and integrity of the examination(s)

### Overnight supervision arrangements

- When candidates are entered for multiple examinations (three or more examinations) timetabled for the same day and the total duration for those papers is more than five and a half hours for GCSE examinations, including approved extra time allowances and/or supervised rest breaks candidates may, at the centre's discretion, be allowed to take an examination the following morning, including Saturdays (8.1)
- Overnight supervision arrangements should only be applied as a last resort and once all other options have been exhausted (ICE 8)
- The head of centre must be satisfied with any arrangement for overnight supervision of a candidate where necessary and must accept full responsibility for the security of the examination throughout (ICE 8)
- Candidates are not allowed to take examinations on an earlier day than that scheduled on the timetable (ICE 8.1)
- The overnight supervision arrangements must ensure that the candidate does not have advance warning of the content of the examination deferred until the following morning. This means 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. telephone (both landline and mobile), e-mail, internet and social media. It also extends to television and radio, which could report key details of the day's examinations (ICE 8.3)
- These arrangements do not apply where a GCSE candidate has five and a half hours or less of examinations in one day (ICE 8.1)

### Roles and Responsibilities

#### Head of centre

- Ensure where a candidate takes an examination the following morning, a member of centre staff or an invigilator is appointed to supervise the candidate at all times while the candidate is on the premises sitting examinations (ICE 8.2)
- Be satisfied that the arrangements maintain the integrity and security of the examination (ICE 8.4)
- Inform the relevant awarding body immediately of any known or suspected contravention of the arrangements for overnight supervision of a candidate (ICE 8.4)

#### Exams officer

- Discuss with an affected candidate all possible options to resolve, within the same day, their timetable clash of multiple examinations, only applying overnight supervision arrangements as a last resort and once all other options have been exhausted (ICE 8)
- Re-arrange any examination that cannot be taken in the scheduled afternoon session for the following morning, ensuring if an examination is deferred from Friday afternoon, it is re-arranged for Saturday morning (ICE 8.5)
- Ensure the JCQ **Overnight Supervision and Overnight Supervision Declaration** forms are completed before the overnight supervision is to commence (ICE 8.4)
- Confirm the supervision of a candidate on journeys to and from the centre and overnight may be undertaken by the candidate's parent/carers or centre staff determining a method of supervision which ensures the candidate's well being (ICE 8.2)

- Download the JCQ **Overnight Supervision Declaration** form for signing by the candidate, the supervisor and the head of centre (ICE 8.4)
- Inform the parties involved that any infringement of the conditions governing overnight supervision arrangements may lead to the awarding body being unable to accept the script and/or the application of sanctions/penalties, as detailed in the JCQ publication **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures** (ICE 8.4)
- Keep all completed forms available for inspection until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later, and not send to an awarding body, unless specifically requested (ICE 8.4)
- Ensure where a candidate takes an examination the following morning, the candidate is under centre supervision from 30 minutes after the awarding body's published starting time for the delayed examination and ensure there is no contact with other candidates who have already taken the examination (ICE 8.2)
- If a candidate is allowed to take an examination on a later day than other candidates at the centre, ensure all copies of the question paper used on the earlier day are sealed in an envelope and returned to the centre's secure storage facility until all candidates at the centre have taken that examination (ICE 8.6)

## **Appendix F: Candidate Absence Policy**

[ICE 22]

An absent candidate may subsequently arrive once the exam is underway, becoming a late or very late arrival, at which point St Matthew Academy reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow a candidate who arrives after the start of the examination to enter the examination room and sit the examination. (See Candidate Late Arrival Policy)

Based upon the circumstances for the absence, and subject to the required conditions being met, an application for special consideration may also be made to the relevant awarding body.

### **Identifying and dealing with candidate absence**

A candidate will be considered absent from an examination if:

- They are absent at the time of line up outside the exam room

Once a candidate is identified as absent from an examination, the following action will be taken:

- Enquiries will be made with the candidate's friends to establish their whereabouts
- The candidate will be contacted immediately as to their whereabouts and as far as possible arrangements made to ensure their immediate arrival
- If unable to contact the candidate, their parents/carers will be contacted to establish their whereabouts

If a candidate fails to sit an examination, the following action is taken:

- A confirmed candidate absence is clearly recorded on the attendance register which is sent to the examiner/marker
- The candidate absence is noted on the seating plan by crossing through the candidate details

### **Roles and responsibilities**

#### **Senior Leader/DOL/EO**

- Will identify if any candidates are absent at line up or on entry to the hall
- Will ask other candidates if they know where the candidate is (if identified as absent at line up)
- will ensure that candidate is phoned immediately to determine the reason for their absence
- If unable to contact the candidate, or if the candidate fails to arrive in a reasonable time, will contact the candidate's parent/carer
- Will notify the Academy reception of the candidate's absence

#### **Exams Officer**

- where appropriate and the candidate is eligible, will instigate the special consideration process ('Candidates who are absent from a timetabled component/unit for acceptable reasons').

#### **Lead Invigilator**

- Be informed of the process for dealing with absent candidates through training
- will record the candidate's absence on the attendance register and seating plan accordingly

#### **Candidate**

- Will provide evidence to the exams officer confirming the reason for absence

### **Special Consideration**

If a candidate is absent from a timetabled written examination for an acceptable reason, the candidate may be eligible for special consideration. (SC 4)

The application for special consideration can be supported by signed evidence produced by a senior leader (SC 6)

Requests for special consideration will be made by the exam officer.

## Appendix G: Candidate Late Arrival Policy

[ICE 21]

A candidate will be considered late if they arrive:

- after the start of the examination and (for an examination which lasts an hour or more) up to 10.00am for a morning examination or up to 2.30pm for an afternoon examination (ICE 21.1)
- after the awarding body's published finishing time for an examination that lasts less than one hour (ICE 21.3)

A candidate will be considered very late if they arrive:

- more than one hour after the awarding body's 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 (ICE 21.3)
- after the awarding body's published finishing time for an examination that lasts less than one hour (ICE 21.3)

This policy confirms that St Matthew Academy reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow a candidate who arrives after the start of the examination to enter the examination room and sit the examination, and confirms:

- the correct procedures are followed when dealing with a candidate who arrives late to an examination
- appropriate arrangements are in place for the management of late arrivals in order to maintain the security and integrity of the examination

### Late Arrival

A candidate who arrives within one hour of the awarding body's published starting time for an examination which lasts an hour or more, i.e. candidates arriving between 9.00am and 10.00am for a morning examination or between 1.30pm and 2.30pm for an afternoon examination (ICE 21.5) will be permitted by the centre to sit the examination

### Very Late Arrival

[ICE 21.3]

- A candidate who arrives after 10.00am for a morning examination will be considered very late (ICE 21.3) and will be permitted by the centre to sit the examination
- A candidate who arrives after 2.30pm for an afternoon examination will be considered very late (ICE 21.3) and will be permitted by the centre to sit the examination
- A candidate who arrives after the awarding body's published finishing time for an examination that lasts less than one hour will be considered very late (ICE 21.3) and will be permitted by the centre to sit the examination

### Roles and responsibilities

#### Exams officer

- Inform invigilators of the policy/process for dealing with candidates who arrive late/very late through training
- Provide an exam room incident log for invigilators to record relevant information relating to candidates who arrive late/very
- Where notified of a possible very late arrival by a parent/carer of a candidate, the EO will inform the parent/carer of the required supervision arrangements (so they are prepared to sign a statement that the required supervision was in place to support the centre in providing assurances to the awarding body that the candidate did not access the paper's content prior to sitting the exam)
- Will record the time the candidate came under centre supervision
- Will speak to the candidate/parent/carer and establish the reason for late arrival (if unknown)
- If very late, will warn the candidate that the awarding body may not accept their script for marking
- Will brief the candidate on any erratum notices and the possession of any unauthorised materials
- Will escort the candidate to the appropriate exam room
- Will enter the exam room with the candidate and brief the lead invigilator
- Will store candidates personal belongings with those of other candidates

- Send the script to the awarding body/examiner in the normal way
- Submit on-line, using the Centre Admin Portal (CAP), Form JCQ/VLA - Report on candidate admitted very late to examination room within seven days of the examination having taken place, providing the following details:
  - the reason the candidate arrived late, including any details of special arrangements made for the candidate to reach the centre
  - the actual starting and finishing times of the examination
  - the time the candidate started the examination
  - the time the candidate finished the examination (ICE 21.4) Consider instigating the special consideration process ('Candidates who are absent from a timetabled component/unit for acceptable reasons'). The candidate will provide evidence to the exams officer confirming the reason for very late arrival.

#### **Reception staff**

- Will notify the exams officer of the candidates' arrival immediately

#### **Lead invigilator/invigilators**

- Ensure candidates who arrive late/very late are given the required instructions prior to starting the examination (the invigilator's announcement) without disturbing other candidates
- Will seat the candidate in a position that is least disruptive to other candidates
- Will amend the seating plan if necessary
- Ensure relevant information is recorded on the exam room incident log relating to candidates who arrive late/very late
- Will complete an '**exam late start note**' and place on candidates desk with their candidate card
- Will mark the candidate present on the attendance register
- Allow a candidate who arrived late, and is allowed the full working time to do their examination, to continue after the normal finishing time, instructing them to stop working after the full working time allowed has passed (ICE 26.2)

## **Appendix H: Food and Drink in Exam Rooms Policy**

[ICE 18]

This policy confirms that St Matthew Academy reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow food and drink in the examination room, and confirms:

- the correct procedures are followed regarding food and drink in the examination room
- appropriate arrangements are in place for the management of food and drink in the examination room

### **Food and drink in the examination room [ICE 18.2]**

- Food and drink is allowed in the examination room at the discretion of the head of centre
- food brought into the examination room by the candidate must be free of packaging and in a transparent container
- drink bottles must be transparent with all labels removed which would include transparent, reusable plastic bottles.

The following arrangements are applied at St Matthew Academy:

- The only food permitted in the exam room is food required for medical purposes, e.g. diabetes
- Food allowed in the examination room only where food is free from packaging and in a transparent container
- The only drink permitted in the exam room is water.
- Drinks bottles must be transparent with all labels removed which would include transparent reusable plastic bottles
- Water bottles must be placed on candidates desks and not kept in pockets
- All permitted food must be stored in clear packaging and handed to the lead invigilator on entry to the exam room

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Exam officer**

- Ensures candidates are aware of the regulations, and centre-specific arrangements, relating to food and drink in the examination room
- Ensures invigilators are trained and aware of the regulations/centre-specific arrangements relating to food and drink in the examination room
- Escalates any issue or breach of centre-specific arrangements to the relevant senior leader for the application of internal sanction(s)
- Escalates any breach of JCQ regulations immediately to the head of centre (a breach of the regulations constitutes suspected or actual malpractice)

### **Invigilator**

- Be vigilant in the examination room and remain aware of incidents or emerging situations, looking out for malpractice (ICE 20.2)
- Record what has happened and actions taken on the exam room incident log in relation to any breach of regulations/centre-specific arrangements regarding food and drink in the examination room

### **Head of centre**

- Report to the awarding body immediately all cases of suspected or actual malpractice in connection with the examination (ICE 24.3)

## Appendix I: Leaving the Exam Room Policy

[ICE 23]

This policy confirm that candidates leaving the examination room at St Matthew Academy is managed in line with JCQ regulations:

- the correct procedures are followed in relation to candidates leaving the examination room
- St Matthew Academy reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow extra time to compensate candidates for their temporary absence from the examination room

### Arrangements for leaving the examination room

- For examinations that last one hour or more, candidates must stay under centre supervision until 10.00am for a morning examination or 2.30pm for an afternoon examination, i.e. one hour after the awarding body's published starting time for that examination. [ICE 23.1]
- For examinations that last less than one hour, candidates must be supervised and question papers must be kept in secure storage until the published finishing time of the examination. [ICE 23.2]
- 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 23.3]
- Candidates who have finished the examination and have been allowed to leave the examination room early must hand in their script, question paper and any other material before they leave the examination room. Those candidates must not be allowed back into the room. [ICE 23.4]
- At the end of the examination, candidates must hand in their script, question paper and any other material before they leave the examination room. [ICE 23.5]

### Roles and responsibilities

#### Candidates

- Are not permitted to leave the exam hall without permission
- In the event of needing a temporary break from the exam room e.g. illness, toilet break:
  - Should attract the attention of an invigilator
  - Leave their belongings and script in the exam room
  - Will be accompanied by an invigilator when out of the exam room
  - Return to the exam room and continue with exam
- In the event of candidates insisting they have finished their exam and wish to leave:
  - Must hand their script, question paper and any other materials to an invigilator
  - Collect their belongings quietly
  - Will be escorted from the exam hall by an invigilator
  - If entitled to an extra time access arrangement, will sign a declaration that they have decided not to use their extra time
  - Will not be allowed to re-enter the exam room
- Will be considerate of other candidates at all times, keep disruption to a minimum to avoid disturbing and distracting other candidates

#### Invigilators

- Will be attentive to candidates requests
- In the event of a candidate needing a temporary break from the exam room e.g. illness, toilet break:
  - Will accompany the candidate needing a temporary break from the exam room
  - Will not leave the candidate unsupervised whilst out of the exam room
  - Will escort the candidate back to the exam room and return them to their assigned seat
- Where a candidate insists they have finished their exam and wish to leave, they:
  - Should encourage an candidates who state that they have finished their exam to go through the paper and check their answers
  - Collect the candidate's script, question paper and any other materials

- Ensure that any candidate entitled to an extra time access arrangement, signs a declaration that they have decided not to use their extra time
- Escorts the candidate to collect their belongings
- Escort the candidate from the exam room
- Ensure the candidate does not re-enter the exam hall
- Record instances on the exam room incident log of candidates who may be allowed to leave the examination room temporarily because they may be feeling unwell or require a toilet break [ICE 20.2]
- Will be considerate of other candidates at all times, keep disruption to a minimum to avoid disturbing and distracting other candidates
- At the end of the examination, ensure candidates hand in their script, question paper and any other material before they leave the examination room [ICE 23.5]

## Appendix J: Managing Behaviour in Exam Rooms

### Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm that candidate behaviour in the examination room at St Matthew Academy is managed in line with JCQ regulations. This policy supplements the St Matthew Academy Behaviour Policy.

### Briefing candidates

To ensure candidates are aware of the standard of behaviour that is required in the examination room, St Matthew Academy will:

- ensure the JCQ Information for candidates (coursework, non-examination assessments, on-screen tests, social media and written examinations) is distributed to all candidates whether electronically or in hard copy format prior to assessments and/or examinations taking place (GR 5.8)
- ensure candidates are also made aware of the content of the JCQ Unauthorised items and Warning to candidates posters (GR 5.8)
- prior to assessments and/or examinations taking place, ensure candidates are briefed on what they must and must not do when sitting written examinations and/or on-screen tests, and when producing coursework and/or non-examination assessments (GR 5.8)

At St Matthew Academy, candidates are made aware of JCQ information at every formal assessment undertaken from Year 7 onwards.

### Candidate malpractice

- Inappropriate behaviour by a candidate in the examination room is deemed 'candidate malpractice'
- 'Candidate malpractice' means malpractice by a candidate in connection with any examination or assessment (SMPP, Definitions)
- 'Malpractice', means any act, default or practice which is a breach of the Regulations (SMPP, 1.2)
- Failure by a centre to notify, investigate and report to an awarding body all allegations of malpractice or suspected malpractice constitutes malpractice in itself (SMPP, 1.6)
- Suspected malpractice means all alleged or suspected incidents of malpractice (SMPP, Definitions)
- Examples of inappropriate behaviour/actions that constitute 'candidate malpractice' are provided in the final section of this policy.

### Instructions for conducting examinations - Malpractice in the examination room

The following requirements are applied at St Matthew Academy:

- Where a candidate is being disruptive, the invigilator must warn the candidate that he/she may be removed from the examination room. The candidate must also be warned that the awarding body will be informed and may decide to penalise them, which could include disqualification (ICE 24.1)
- The head of centre must report to the awarding body immediately all cases of suspected or actual malpractice in connection with the examination (ICE 24.3)
- Form JCQ/M1 - **Report of suspected candidate malpractice** must be completed (ICE 24.3)
- 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 (ICE 24.3)
- Where candidates commit malpractice, the awarding body may decide to penalise them, which could include disqualification. Candidates should be warned of the possible penalties an awarding body may apply as detailed in the JCQ publication **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures** (ICE 24.5)
- In cases of suspected malpractice, examination scripts must be packed as normal and Form JCQ/M1 must be submitted separately to the relevant awarding body (ICE 24.6)

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Lead invigilator/invigilator**

- Be vigilant and remain aware of incidents or emerging situations, looking out for malpractice (ICE 20.2)
- Warn a disruptive candidate that he/she may be removed from the examination room (ICE 24.1)
- Record what has happened and actions taken on the exam room incident log (ICE 24.1)
- Call for assistance from a senior leader/head of centre if necessary

### **Head of centre**

- Where a candidate is seriously disrupting others, makes the decision to remove the candidate from the examination room (ICE 24.3)
- Report to the awarding body immediately all cases of suspected or actual malpractice in connection with the examination by completing form JCQ/M1 (ICE 24.3)

### **Senior leader**

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

## **Examples of 'candidate malpractice'**

These include:

### **Introduction of unauthorised material into the examination room, for example:**

#### **Own blank paper**

- used for rough work
- used for final answers Calculators, dictionaries (when prohibited)
- not used
- used or attempted to use

#### **Bringing into the examination room notes in the wrong format or prohibited annotations**

- notes/annotations go beyond what is permitted but do not give an advantage; notes irrelevant to subject
- notes/annotations are relevant and give an unfair advantage
- notes/annotations introduced in a deliberate attempt to gain an advantage Study guides and personal organisers
- content irrelevant to subject
- content relevant to subject
- relevant to subject and evidence of use

#### **Mobile phone or similar electronic devices (including iPod, PM3/4 player, memory sticks, smartphone, smartwatch. airpods, earphones and headphones)**

- not in the candidate's possession but make a noise in the examination room
- in the candidate's possession but no evidence of being used by the candidate
- in the candidate's possession and evidence of being used by the candidate

#### **Watches (not smartwatches)**

- in candidate's possession

### **Breaches of examination conditions**

A breach of the instructions or advice of an invigilator, supervisor, or the awarding body in relation to the examination rules and regulations

- minor non-compliance: e.g. sitting in a non-designated seat; continuing to write for a short period after being told to stop

- major non-compliance: e.g. refusing to move to a designated seat; significant amount of writing after being told to stop
- related non-compliance

Failing to abide by the conditions of supervision designed to maintain the security and integrity of the examinations

- leaving examination early (no loss of integrity); removing script from the examination room, but evidence of the integrity was maintained
- removing script from examination room but with no proof that the script is safe; taking home materials
- deliberately breaking a timetable clash supervision arrangement; removing script from the examination room and with proof that the script has been tampered with; leaving examination room early so integrity is impaired

Disruptive behaviour in the examination room or assessment session (including use of offensive language)

- minor disruption lasting a short time; calling out, causing noise, turning around
- repeated or prolonged disruption; unacceptably rude remarks; being removed from the examination room; taking another's possessions
- warnings ignored; provocative or aggravated behaviour; repeated or loud offensive comments; physical assault on staff or property

### **Exchange, obtaining, receiving, or passing on information which could be examination related (or the attempt to):**

Verbal

- isolated incidents of talking before the start of the examination or after papers have been collected
- taking during the examination about matters not related to the exam; accepting examination related information
- talking about examination related matters during the exam; whispering answers to questions

Communication

- passing/receiving written communications which clearly have no bearing on the assessment
- accepting assessment related information
- passing assessment related information to other candidates; helping one another; swapping scripts

### **Offences relating to the content of candidates' work**

The inclusion of inappropriate, offensive or obscene material in scripts, controlled assessments, coursework, non-examination assessments or portfolios

- isolated words or drawings, mildly offensive, inappropriate approaches or responses
- frequent mild obscenities or drawings; isolated strong obscenity; isolated mild obscenities or mildly offensive comments aimed at the examiner or member of staff
- offensive comments or obscenities aimed at a member of staff, examiner or religious group; homophobic, transphobic, racist or sexist remarks or lewd drawing

(SMPP, Appendix 6)