



Exam Policy

Approved.....

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Key Staff Involved in Examinations

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Vice Principal – Mr D Richards

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Purpose of the Policy

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.

The exam policy will be reviewed annually 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.

The exam policy will be reviewed by the Exams Officer and Vice Principal.

Responsibilities Overview

"The head of centre is the individual who is accountable to the awarding bodies for ensuring that the centre is compliant with the published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements to ensure the security and integrity of the examinations/assessments. This individual must have the authority to deploy the necessary resources to ensure that the centre is always compliant in meeting those published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements.

Heads of centre must ensure that senior leadership teams and exam office personnel familiarize themselves with the entire contents of JCQ General regulations for approved centres booklet. In particular heads of centre must familiarize themselves with sections 5.1, 5.3 and 5.4

Heads of centre must ensure that relevant members of staff respond promptly to requests for information from awarding bodies in relation to the administration and conduction of examination/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 Principal (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." [\[GR 2\]](#)

The head of centre and/or examinations officer may operate across more than one centre. In such cases the head of centre must ensure there is suitable senior leadership team support in place, so they can meet their obligations across all centres for which they are responsible. The head of centre must ensure that these arrangements are covered by their examination contingency plan. ([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 2023 to 31 August 2024*:
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice> (ICE)

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 in Examinations and Assessments](#) (SMEA)
 - [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#) (NEA) (and the instructions for conducting coursework)
 - [A guide to the special consideration 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 for exams and/or practical assessments
- 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 penalties (see National Centre Number Register and other information requirements section)
- 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

- Enables the relevant senior leader (s), the examinations officer and the SENCO to receive appropriate training and support in order to facilitate the effective delivery of examinations and assessments with in the centre, and ensure compliance with the published JCQ Regulations
- Appoints a SENCo who will determine appropriate arrangements for candidates with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Ensures centre staff are supported and appropriately trained to undertake key tasks within the exams process
- Ensures centre staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
- Ensures “that a teacher who teaches the subject being examined, or a senior member of teaching staff who has had overall responsibility for the subject department and /or preparing candidates for the examination, is not an invigilator during the timetabled written examination or on-screen test...” [ICE 12]
- Ensures confidentiality and security within the examination process is compliant with and managed according to JCQ and awarding body regulations, guidance and instructions including the location of the centre’s secure storage facility in a secure room solely assigned to examinations for the purpose of administering secure examination materials
- appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential materials are only delivered to authorised members of centre staff
- Access to the secure room and secure storage facility is restricted to the authorised 2-6 keyholders whom must fully understand their responsibilities as a key holder to secure storage facility. Staff are named and approved by head of centre accompanied by a key holder at all times
- the relevant awarding body is immediately informed if the security of question papers or confidential supporting instructions is put at risk
- that arrangements are in place to check that the correct question paper packets are opened by authorised members of centre staff
- Through taking an ethical approach and working proactively to avoid malpractice among students and staff takes all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice/maladministration before, during the course of and after examinations 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 that the ALS lead/SENCo has sufficient time to both manage the access arrangements process within the centre and familiarise him/herself 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
- Ensures irregularities are investigated and informs the awarding bodies of any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, are reported to the awarding body immediately
- Ensures risks to the exam process are assessed and appropriate risk management processes/contingency plans are in place (that allow the Senior Leadership team/head of centre to act immediately in the event of an emergency or staff absence)
- Allows candidates access to relevant pre-release materials on, or soon after as possible after, the date specified by the awarding bodies
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Recruitment, Selection And Training of support

- 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), the examinations officer (EO) and the ALS lead/SENCo to receive appropriate training and support in order to facilitate the effective delivery of examinations and assessments within the centre, and ensure compliance with the published JCQ regulations
- Appoints an ALS lead/SENCo who will determine appropriate arrangements for candidates with learning difficulties and disabilities
- Ensures that the ALS lead/SENCo has sufficient time to both manage the access arrangements process within the centre and familiarise him/herself with the JCQ publication *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*
- Ensures that the examinations officer has sufficient time to perform their role and familiarise him/herself with relevant awarding body and JCQ documentation.
- 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

External and 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

Escalation Process

“It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that his centre has in place a written examination escalation process which covers all aspects of examination administration and processes should there be staff members absent. This will allow members of the senior leadership team to act immediately in the event of an emergency or staff absence. The examination escalation process must be available for inspection purposes. [\[GR 5.3\]](#)

- 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
- Has in place a member of the senior leadership team who will provide effective support and supervision to the examinations officer to 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
- Can confirm to an awarding body the external governance arrangements so that the awarding body has confidence in the integrity of centre activities such as the delivery of qualifications and the conducting of examinations and assessments
- Makes sure that a teacher, a teaching assistant, tutor or a senior member of centre staff who teaches the subject being examined or a learning support assistant who has supported one or more candidates, is not an invigilator during the examination
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Delivery of qualification

- 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 solely assigned to examinations 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 keyholder 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 the exams office must be once keyholder and staff named and 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 paper 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 malpractice among students and staff takes all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice/maladministration before, during the course of and after examinations 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 of any cases immediately of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, are reported to the awarding body immediately by completing the appropriate documentation
- As required by an awarding body, ensures evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) is gathered in accordance with the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures and provides such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require

Policies and 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 where the head of centre, the examinations officer or SENCo is absent at a critical stage of the examination cycle)
- The examination contingency plan should reinforce procedures in the event of the centre being unavailable for examinations owing to an unforeseen emergency.
- All relevant centre staff must be familiar with the examination contingency plan. Consideration should be given as to how these arrangements will be communicated to candidates, parents and staff should disruption to examinations occur.

Exam contingency plan

“It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that his centre has in place a written examination contingency plan which covers all aspects of examination administration. This will allow members of the senior leadership team to act immediately in the event of an emergency or staff absence. The examination contingency plan must be available for inspection purposes; (The examination contingency plan should also reinforce procedures in the event of the centre being unavailable for examinations or on results day owing to an unforeseen emergency.)” [\[GR 5\]](#)

Lockdown Policy (Exams)

Ormiston Venture Academy has a confirmed lockdown policy is via head centre

- Ensures internal appeals procedures are in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and (where relevant) their parents/carers

Internal appeals procedures

“Ormiston Venture Academy before submitting marks to the awarding body will inform candidates of their centre assessed marks and allow a candidate to request a review of the centre’s marking have in place and be readily available for inspection purposes, a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions and to ensure that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates...[\[GR 5.7\]](#)
“The centre will... have available for inspection purposes and draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers, a written internal appeals procedure to manage disputes when a candidate

disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal..." [GR 5.13]

- 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
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Equalities Policy

Refer to [GR](#) (section 5.3) Policies available for inspection) and (5.4) Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

- 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
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Complaints Policy (Exams)

"Ormiston Venture Academy will draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers their written complaints and appeals procedure which will cover general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification." [GR 5.8]

- Ensures the centre has a child protection/safeguarding policy in place, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements
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Child protection/safeguarding policy

"It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that Ormiston Venture Academy has in place a written child protection/safeguarding policy, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements..." [GR 5.3]

- Ensures the centre has a data protection policy in place that complies with General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 regulations
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Data protection policy

Ormiston Venture Academy location of the centre's policy is on the OAT Website (this centre-wide policy should include information where this relates to the exam process and GDPR) - for examples see information contained in [GR 6](#); consideration will also need to be given to the centre's policy on sharing candidates results and other exams related information with those with parental responsibility and third parties

"The General Regulations cover...obligations arising from current data protection, equality and freedom of information legislation. However, the general regulations are not intended to be relied upon to ensure compliance with the legislation (Section 6).

A centre will have confirmed its readiness to adhere to these regulations when first approved as a centre (see Section 3, page 4)." [GR 1.2]

"Ormiston Venture Academy will ensure that all candidate data where required by the awarding body has been supplied to the awarding bodies within the terms of the General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and that candidates have been properly informed that this data has been transferred to the awarding bodies (see section 6, page 23,

for more information)..."

[GR 5.8]

Legislation on sharing information

Under the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 and the Data Protection Act 2018, children and young adults can assume control over their personal information and restrict access to it from the age of 13.

This suggests that candidate consent should be sought to share results or other exams-related information with a third party.

However other legislation and guidance may need to be taken into account regarding sharing information with parents, as example information from the DfE for schools regarding parental responsibility and school reports on pupil performance:

Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility last updated 24 august 2023 to include www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility/understanding-and-dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility

School reports on pupil performance www.gov.uk/guidance/school-reports-on-pupil-performance-guide-for-headteachers

Publication of exam results

Refer to ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) [Education and Families](#) information and the document [Publishing exam results](#).

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- Ensures the centre has a whistleblowing policy in place

Whistleblowing Policy (Exams)

Ormiston Venture Academy has a central whistleblowing policy which includes Exams refer to [GR](#) (section 5.3) Policies available for inspection

- Ensures the centre's disability 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

Disability policy

"The General Regulations cover...obligations arising from current data protection, equality and freedom of information legislation. However, the general regulations are not intended to be relied upon to ensure compliance with the legislation (Section 6).

Ormiston Venture Academy will have confirmed its readiness to adhere to these regulations when first approved as a centre (see Section 3, page 4)".

[GR 1.2]

"The head of centre/senior leadership team will recognise its duties towards disabled candidates as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010†. This must include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates; †or any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect...

The centre must comply with the obligation to identify the need for, request and implement access arrangements..." [GR 5.4]

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- Ensures the centre has documented processes in place relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

Access arrangements policy

“Ormiston Venture Academy... with the obligation to identify the need for, request and implement access arrangements...” [GR 5.4]
 “The head of centre/senior leadership team will have a written process in place to not only check the qualification(s) of their assessor(s) but that the correct procedures are followed as per Chapter 7 of the JCQ publication Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments...” [GR 5.4]

Conflicts of Interest

- 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)
- A candidate is being taught and prepared for a qualification which includes 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 have a personal connection 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 (taking at the centre as a last resort where unable to find an alternative centre)
- A member of exams office staff has a close relationship to a candidate being entered for exams and assessments at the centre or at another centre
- 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

Conflicts Of Interest Policy (Exams)

“It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that his centre Ormiston Venture Academy informs the awarding bodies, before the published deadline for entries, of any members of centre staff who are either sitting examinations and assessments, or teaching and preparing members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or household for examinations and assessments, or where members of their family will be sitting examinations and assessments;

Awarding bodies must be informed where members of the family (which includes stepfamily, foster-family and similar close relationships) or household of exams office staff are being entered for examinations and assessments; whether by the centre itself or a different centre.

Note: Heads of centre must note that entering members of centre staff for qualifications at their own centre must be as a last resort in cases where the member of centre staff is unable to find another centre.

The head of centre is responsible for ensuring that proper protocols are in place to prevent the member of centre staff having access to examination materials prior to the examination and that other centre staff are briefed on maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the examination materials.

Policy to be available for inspection

The head of centre must ensure that during the examination series the member of centre staff is treated as per any other candidate entered for that examination, does not have access to examination materials and does not receive any preferential treatment.

Note: If a candidate is entered for an awarding body's examinations at a centre where a relative is employed, the head of centre must ensure that during the examination series the candidate's relative does not have unaccompanied access to examination materials. For example, question papers, pre-release materials and answer scripts.

If the relative in question is the centre's examinations officer, then appropriate arrangements must be made to ensure that another person is present for all of the administrative arrangements relating to the candidate's examinations. (For example, any application for special consideration must be authorised by a member of centre staff other than the candidate's relative.)" [GR 5.3]

National Centre Number Registration and other information requirements

- 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 every year
- 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 by completion of the head of centre declaration
- 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

Exams officer

- Understands the contents of annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - [General Regulations for Approved Centres](#)
 - [Instructions for Conducting Examinations](#)
 - [Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures](#)
 - [Post-results services](#) (PRS)
 - [A guide to the special consideration process](#)

- Completes/submits 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 every 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) 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

Senior leaders (SLT)

- Are familiar with the contents, refer to and direct relevant centre staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - [General regulations for approved centres](#)
 - [Instructions for conducting examinations](#)
 - [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#)
 - [Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments](#)
 - [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#) (and the instructions for conducting coursework)
 - [A guide to the special consideration process](#)
- 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 ALS lead/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

Special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo)

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

- 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 a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification

Teaching staff

- Undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and SENCo
- Keep updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Attend relevant awarding body training and update events

Invigilators

- Attend/Undertake training, update on the current regulations, 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

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

Site staff

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

Candidates

- 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.

Planning: roles and responsibilities

Information sharing

Head of centre

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

Qualifications offered

- The qualifications offered at this Centre are decided by the Head of Centre.
- The qualifications offered are GCSE, OCR Nationals, BTEC, NCFE, EDEXCEL, WJEC/Eduquas, AQA.
- Informing the exams office of changes to a specification is the responsibility of the Heads of Faculty.
- Decisions on whether a candidate should be entered for a particular subject will be taken in consultation with the Head of Faculty.

Exams officer

- Signposts relevant centre staff to JCQ publications and awarding body documentation relating to the exams process that has 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 [insert the titles these internal exams are referred to in the centre]

Head of Faculty

- 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(s) of the appointed assessor(s) 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 (or works with the appropriately qualified assessor as appointed by the head of centre) to identify access arrangements requirements/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 examinations Officer Or Senco are completed
- signed **data protection notices** from candidates where required
- Applies for **approval** through *Access arrangements online* (AAO) via the Centre Admin Portal (CAP), where required or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Keeps a file for each candidate for JCQ inspection purposes containing all the required documentation (if any documentation is kept electronically, in the event of IT failure at the time of an inspection is able to access this documentation in an alternative format)
- Employs good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010
- Liaises with the EO regarding exam time arrangements for access arrangement candidates
- Ensures staff appointed to facilitate access arrangements for candidates are thoroughly 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 the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room

Word Processing Policy

Ormiston Venture Academy has a word processing policy which is situated in the Exams office. A centre must have a policy on the use of word processors. A word processor cannot simply be granted to a candidate because he/she now wants to type rather than write in examinations or can work faster on a keyboard, or because he/she uses a laptop at home.

The use of a word processor must reflect the candidate's normal way of working within the centre. For example, where the curriculum is delivered electronically and the centre provides word processors to all candidates.

The centre may wish to set out the particular types of candidates which it considers would benefit from the use of a word processor. For example, a candidate with...

A member of the centre's senior leadership team must produce a statement for inspection purposes which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations.

[AA 5.8]

- Ensures criteria for candidates granted **separate invigilation within the centre** is clear, meets JCQ regulations and best meets the needs of individual candidates and remaining candidates in main exam rooms

Alternative Rooming arrangements policy

At Ormiston Venture we use Mocks and Internal assessments to establish alternative rooming and medical evidence.

[See [AA 5.16](#) plus centre-determined criteria]

“...For example, in the case of separate invigilation, the candidate’s difficulties are established within the centre (see Chapter 4, paragraph 4.1.4, page 16) and known to a PL Tutor, a Head of Year, the SENCo or a senior member of staff with pastoral responsibilities.

Separate invigilation reflects the candidate’s normal way of working in internal school tests and mock examinations as a consequence of a long term medical condition or long term social, mental or emotional needs.” [\[AA 5.16\]](#)

A candidate may only take their examinations under separate invigilation within the centre where he/she has **an established difficulty** - see **section 5.16** of the JCQ publication *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments...* [\[ICE 14\]](#)

Senior Leaders, Head of department, Teaching staff

- Support the SENCo in determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements/reasonable adjustments
- purposes produce a word processing policy specific to this centre which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations

Non-examination assessment

Head of centre

- Ensures appropriate controls are in place which allow accurate data to be submitted to the awarding bodies, e.g. internally assessed marks
- 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 qualified 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 GCE and GCSE qualifications which include components of non-examination assessment (For CCEA GCSE centres this would be a controlled assessment policy)
-

Non-examination assessment policy

“Ormiston Venture Academy will have in place and be available for inspection purposes, a written policy with regard to the management of GCSE non-examination assessments”

[\[GR 5.7\]](#)

“The JCQ requires each centre to have a non-examination assessment policy in place:
to cover procedures for planning and managing non-examination assessments;
to define staff roles and responsibilities with respect to non-examination assessments;
to manage risks associated with non-examination assessments.

A JCQ Centre Inspector will ask the examinations officer to confirm that such a policy is in place. The guidance provided in this document will help the head of centre to ensure that the centre's policy is fit for purpose. The policy will need to cover all types of non-examination assessment."

Additionally, each centre must have available for inspection an internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions [NEA 1]

Also refer to the JCQ document AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications (<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice>)

- 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

- 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 (and CCEA GCE unitised AS and A-level qualifications and 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

Head of Faculty

- Ensures teaching staff delivering any remaining legacy GCE unitised AS and A-level qualifications (which include elements of coursework) and Entry Level or Project qualifications follow JCQ [Instructions for conducting coursework](#) and the specification provided by the awarding body
- Ensures teaching staff delivering 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, ensures teaching staff follow appropriate instructions issued by the awarding body
- Ensures 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 internally assessed (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

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
- 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 thorough training for new invigilators on the current instructions for conducting exams and an 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 that 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

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

Estimated entries collection and submission procedure

Request estimated information in the first two weeks in September to provide to the awarding bodies. To get this in a timely manner to ensure that the submission is met.

-
- Makes candidates aware of the JCQ **Information for candidates – Privacy Notice** at the start of a course leading to a vocational qualification or when entries are submitted to awarding bodies for processing for general qualifications

Head of faculty

- Provides entry information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- Informs the EO immediately of any subsequent changes to entry information

Final entries

Head of Centre

- Ensures appropriate controls are in place which allow accurate data to be submitted to the awarding bodies, e.g. 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

Final entries collection and submission procedure

December HoF will receive internal Entries form that will have an internal deadline. Once HoF have completed this is sent to VP to check QAN codes and Entries these are then passed to EO to ensure that entry processes are completed along with modified papers before deadlines.

Head of faculty

- 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

Exam budget is managed by EO, Entries are collected on time to reduce any late entry's. Amendment or re-sit fees where this may be applicable is down to the areas and is put through VP in the centre. Candidates or Faculties will not be charged for changes of tier, withdrawals made by the proper procedures or alterations arising from administrative processes provided these are made within the time allowed by the awarding bodies.

The entry exam fees for GCSEs and equivalent qualifications are paid by the Centre.

Fee reimbursements are not sought from candidates who decide to sit an exam after the late entry/withdrawal deadline/fail to sit an exam/do not meet the necessary coursework requirements without medical evidence or evidence of other mitigating circumstances.

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

Head of department

- Minimises 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

Access arrangements

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
 - unauthorized items in exam rooms
 - when and how results will be issued and the staff that will be available
 - the post-results services information and how the centre will deal with requests from candidates
 - when and how certificates will be issued

Access to scripts, reviews of results and appeals procedures

“Ormiston Venture Academy will have in place written procedures for how it will deal with candidates’ requests for access to scripts, clerical checks, reviews of marking, reviews of moderation and appeals to the awarding bodies. Details of these procedures must be made widely available and accessible to all candidates. Candidates must be made aware of the arrangements for post-results services before they sit any examinations and the accessibility of senior members of centre staff immediately after the publication of results...”

[GR 5.13]

“The centre will treat all candidates equally, including private candidates, throughout the examination process. This would also extend to post-results services and appeals.” [GR 5.6]

“Senior members of centre staff must be accessible to candidates immediately after the publication of results so that results may be discussed and decisions made on the submission of enquiries. Candidates must be informed of the periods during which centre staff will be available so that they may plan accordingly.”

[PRS 4.1]

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

Heads of faculty

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

Exam 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

Exam Series and Timetables

Exam seasons

- Internal exams and assessments are scheduled in November, December, January, March and June. External exams and assessments are scheduled according to the exam boards in November, January, March, May and June.
- Internal exams are held under external exam conditions, following the same procedures.
- The Head of Centre decides which exam series are used in the Centre.
- Controlled assessments are to be scheduled in agreement with the Exams Officer with Heads of Faculty contributing to an Academy timetable

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

Head of faculty

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

Exams officer

- Exam timetable will be circulated for internal and external exams
- 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 appointment and updates experienced invigilators on any regulation changes and any changes to centre-specific processes on the current regulations and on an annual basis
- 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 inspection visit

Exams officer or Senior leader

- Will accompany the Inspector throughout the visit.

“It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that his centre allows all venues used for examinations and assessments, paperwork and secure storage facilities to be open to inspection. (JCQ Centre Inspectors will identify themselves with a photo ID card.) The Inspector must be accompanied throughout his/her tour of the premises, including inspection of the centre’s secure storage facility” [\[ICE 5\]](#)

SENCo or relevant Senior leader (in the absence of the SENCo)

- 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

Exams officer

- Ensures a procedure is in place to verify candidate identity

Verifying candidate identity procedure

“Ormiston Venture Academy will. verify the identity of all students that they enter for examinations or assessments. The centre must be satisfied that all candidate identities have been checked, whether as part of the initial registration process, or in the case of private candidates through a verification process which involves photo-ID [\[GR 5.6\]](#)

The centre will... have in place written procedures to verify the identity of all candidates at the time of the examination or assessment [\[GR 5.9\]](#)

Invigilators must establish the identity of all candidates sitting examinations.

Where it is impossible to identify a candidate due to the wearing of religious clothing, such as a veil, the candidate should be approached by a member of staff of the same gender and taken to a private room where they should be politely asked to remove the religious clothing for identification purposes. Centres must inform candidates in advance of this procedure and well before their first examination.

Once identification has been established, the candidate should replace, for example, their veil and proceed as normal to sit the examination. Invigilators must be informed of those candidates with access arrangements. Invigilators must be made aware of the particular access arrangement(s) awarded. [\[ICE 16\]](#)

- 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)

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 key holder at all times. There must be between two and six key holders only, each of whom must fully understand their responsibilities as a key holder to the secure storage facility the exams office must be a keyholder.
- Has a process in place to demonstrate the receipt, secure movement and secure storage of confidential exam materials 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 to the secure storage facility until they can be removed from the dispatch packaging and checked in the secure room before being returned to the secure storage facility in timetable order
- Carefully checks question paper packets when they are removed from dispatch packing and keeps a log of the check
- 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 stationery, 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 secure environment to prevent unauthorised personnel accessing live assessment materials and ensuring only authorised members of centre staff have access to electronic question papers)
- At least two and no more than six members of centre staff should be authorised to handle secure electronic materials, one of whom must be the exams officer*. Other members of centre staff may assist with printing and collation provided they are under supervision.
*For AQA examinations, one member of centre staff can be authorised to handle secure electronic material.

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 transfer/placing in 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 in rare and exceptional circumstances and as a last resort)
- Identifies exam rooms and specialist equipment requirements
- Allocates invigilators to exam rooms (or where supervising candidates due to an exam timetable clash) 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
- Allowing a candidate to take an exam paper the following morning due to an eligible overnight supervision arrangement is at the discretion of the centre. Having a documented policy ensures:
 - the correct procedure is followed
 - appropriate arrangements are put in place
 - candidates (and/or parents/carers) understand when, or indeed if, appropriate arrangements can/will be made
 - the centre can demonstrate the policy if asked/challenged by a candidate (and/or parent/carer)

- Ormiston Venture Academy will only apply for overnight supervision as a last resort and once all other options for the candidate have been exhausted.
- Overnight supervision arrangements should only be applied as a last resort and once all other options have been exhausted candidates may, at the centre's discretion, be allowed to take an examination the following morning, including Saturdays (see paragraph 8.5, page 14). Candidates are not allowed to take examinations on an earlier day than that scheduled on the timetable. 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]

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 through 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

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

Access arrangements

Exams officer

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

Candidates

Candidate absence

Candidate absence policy

Candidates that are absent are chased by Head of year and will be picked up by two members of staff. We then make sure that the candidates arrive in a timely manner for the external exams.

Once candidates are seated and have started the examination, complete the attendance register. This will allow for the identification of absent candidates who can be contacted as to their whereabouts.

[ICE 22]

Why have a policy on this?

Centres will likely have different strategies for dealing with unauthorised absences from exams. Having a documented policy ensures:

- candidates are aware of what they need to do if they are likely to be absent from an exam
- staff involved in the exams process understand how absent candidates who have not contacted the centre regarding their absence will be managed at the time of the exam
- the centre can demonstrate the policy if asked/challenged by a candidate (and/or parent/carer)

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 late arrival

Exams officer

- 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 use CAP to timescale
- Warns candidates that their script may not be accepted by the awarding body

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

Candidate late arrival policy

All candidates that arrive late are given the opportunity to sit the exam and are given clear guidelines on the process of the centre. The EO will advise what the latest time the candidate can arrive in to the examination. Senior Leadership will be advised on the day what time is the latest that the candidate can go in. The candidate will receive their full time to ensure that they get through the exam with no stress or anxiety.

The candidate will receive all instructions with regards to the exam outside the room. They will be escorted in to the room and placed quietly so no to disturb any other candidate

“A candidate who arrives after the start of the examination may be allowed to enter the examination room and sit the examination. This is entirely at the discretion of the centre...”

A candidate who arrives after the start of the examination should be allowed the full time for the examination, depending on the centre’s organisational arrangements and provided that adequate supervision arrangements are in place...” [\[ICE 21\]](#)

Why have a policy on this?

Permitting candidates who arrive after the start of an exam to enter the exam room and sit the exam is at the centre’s discretion. Having a documented policy ensures:

- candidates are aware of what will or won’t happen should they arrive late
- staff involved in the exams process understand how this will be managed at the time of the exam
- the centre can demonstrate the policy if asked/challenged by a candidate (and/or parent/carer)

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 track 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 question paper packets
- Collates attendance registers and examiner details in date order
- Regularly checks mail or email inbox for updates from awarding bodies
- In order to avoid potential breaches of security, ensures prior to question paper packets being opened that another member of staff or an invigilator checks day, date, time, subject, unit/component and tier of entry if appropriate, immediately before a question paper packet is opened
- 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
- Ensures this second pair of eyes is recorded (which takes place in the secure room if a question paper packet has to be split or in the designated exam room if not)

Exam rooms

Head of centre

- Ensures only authorised centre staff are present in exam rooms
- Ensures that internal tests, mock exams, revision or coaching sessions are not conducted in a room 'designated' as an exam room
- Ensures that when a room is 'designated' as an exam room it is not used for any purpose other than conducting external exams
- Ensures only authorised centre staff are present in exam rooms
- Ensures the centre's policy on candidates leaving the exam room temporarily is clearly communicated to candidates
- Ensures the centre's policy relating to food and drink that may be allowed in exam rooms is clearly communicated to candidates

Food and drink in exam rooms' policy

Food is not allowed in to examination rooms at Ormiston Venture Academy, We as the academy will provide a Bottle of water with the labels removed and some chocolate will be offered before walking in to the examination room.

“Food and drink may be allowed in the examination room at the discretion of the head of centre. However, this is on the condition that any food or drink brought into the examination room whether by the candidate or the centre is free from packaging and all labels are removed from drink containers” [ICE 18]

Why have a policy on this?

Allowing food and drink in an exam room is at the head of centre's discretion. Having a documented policy ensures:

- candidates are clear on what is or what is not allowed
- staff involved in the exams process are aware of what is and what is not allowed and how this will be managed at the time of the exam
- the centre can demonstrate the policy if asked/challenged by a candidate (and/or parent/carer)

Policy on candidates leaving the exam room temporarily

Candidates at Ormiston Venture Academy will be allowed to leave the exam room temporarily with a member of the Exams team. This is ideally for those that are allowed rest breaks. Candidate will be supervised and kept in Exams conditions. They will be given the time back to continue with their exam at the discretion of Ormiston Venture Academy. Candidates are aware of the centre arrangements where time may or may not be compensated for any temporary absence from the exam room. Staff involved in the exam process understand how this will be managed at the time of the exam. The Centre can demonstrate the policy if asked or challenged by a candidate or Parent/carer.

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]

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 using a Mobile phone then this will be on silent
- Ensures that the invigilators understand they must be vigilant and remain aware of incidents or emerging situation, looking out for malpractice or candidates who may distress, recording any incidents or issues in the exam room log
- Ensures invigilators understand how to deal with candidates who may need to leave the exam room temporarily and how this should be recorded.
- 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

Emergency evacuation policy

Ormiston Venture Academy emergency evacuation procedure is in all examination Rooms along with evacuation procedures for external rooms which can be found in the room on the notice board.

When dealing with emergencies you must be aware of your centre's policy and, where appropriate, any instructions from relevant local or national agencies.

"...Reference should also be made to the following document -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bomb-threats-guidance/procedures-for-handling-bomb-threats> ...You must have a written centre policy for dealing with an emergency evacuation of the examination room, which will be subject to inspection by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service." [ICE 25]

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 as according to JCQ instructions for conducting examinations and or awarding body requirements and as instructed in training/update events and briefing sessions

Candidates

- Are required to remain in the exam room for the full duration of the exam
- Are required to follow the instructions given to them in exam rooms by authorised centre staff and invigilators

Irregularities

Head of centre

- Ensures 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

Managing behaviour in exam room procedure

Should any candidate disrupt any candidates or the exam then they will be removed from the examination room by the EO.

"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.
The invigilator must record what has happened... 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]

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)

Malpractice

See Irregularities above.

Special consideration

Exams officer

- Processes appropriate requests 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

Special consideration policy

Special considerations are processed by EO and Vice Principal these can range from A family issue to a Fire alarm sounding during examinations Should a candidate be ill before an exam, suffer bereavement or other trauma, be taken ill during the exam itself or otherwise be disadvantaged or disturbed during an exam, it is the candidate's responsibility to alert the centre, the Exams Officer, or the exam invigilator, to that effect.

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

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

Candidates

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

Unauthorised materials

Arrangements for unauthorised materials taken into the exam room

Ormiston Venture Academy makes sure that all candidates personal belongings are placed in a secure room that only staff has access too. Mobile phones are also handed into the invigilators and the candidates receives a ticket to enable them to pick up their belongings at the end of the examination. These are then stored in the Exams office which is locked.

“...In the examination room candidates must not have access to items other than those stated in the instructions on the question paper, the stationery list or the specification for that subject...

...any unauthorised items that have been taken into the examination room must be placed out of reach of the candidates (and not under their desks) before the examination starts. This would normally be at the front of the examination room or a similar arrangement that enables the invigilator to control access to the items.

...The invigilator, prior to the examination starting, must ensure that candidates have removed their wrist watches, placing them on their desks.

...A head of centre may, if he/she so wishes, prohibit candidates bringing a wrist watch into the examination room. Candidates would be required to leave their watches outside of the examination room.”

[ICE 18]

Invigilators

- Are informed of the arrangements through training

Internal exams

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

Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities

Internal assessment

Head of department

- 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 or disposed of according to the requirements

Managing results day(s)

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 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(s) (a results day programme) are in place

Results day programme

EO and Data Manager will be in place to download results these will be uploaded to the OAT data sheet. All results to be passed to Principal and to VP. Results will be allocated in to colleges for candidates to pick up between 10am and 11am Any EARs are to be passed to EO that day along with any requests for Scripts

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.

Exams officer

- Informs candidates in advance of when and how results will be released to them for each exam series
- 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
- Issues statements of results to candidates on issue of results date
- Provides summaries 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 clerical re check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal
- 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 all candidates and staff on the services provided by awarding bodies and the fees charged (see also above *Briefing candidates* and *Access to scripts, enquiries about 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 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

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
- EAR if the academy does not agree with the EAR then candidate is to pay the charge
- Access to scripts re- marks can't happen once script has been returned, candidates requesting script will have to pay cost.
- Any candidates requiring scripts are to request with in three days of the results.

Analysis of results

Data Manager

- Provides analysis of results to appropriate centre staff
- Provides results information to external organisations where required
- Undertakes the secondary school and college (key stage 4/16-18) performance tables June and September checking exercise

Certificates

- Certificates are provided to centres by awarding bodies after results have been confirmed.

Issue of certificates procedure

Ormiston Venture academy issues certificates to candidates by a graduation ceremony this is usually held in January. This is an opportunity to celebrate the success of all candidates. Candidates will then receive a diploma from the Academy and will then sign for their certificates that are provided by the awarding bodies

Detail the records kept of certificates that have been issued (to support this detail refer to the requirements in [GR 5.14](#))..

- Certificates are Presented in person and Collected and signed for.
- Certificates can be collected on behalf of a candidate by third parties, provided they have written authorisation from the candidate.
- If a certificate has been destroyed then a transcript of results may be issued by an awarding body if a candidate agrees to pay the costs incurred, currently around £45 per awarding body.

Candidates

- May arrange for certificates to be collected on their behalf by providing the EO with written or email permission/authorisation; authorised persons must provide ID evidence on collection of certificates

Retention of certificates policy

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

Ormiston Venture Academy retains unclaimed or uncollected certificates which are kept in secure for 12 months. The EO takes responsibility for the certificates on site. All certificates that are collected are signed for and those unclaimed are destroyed 5 years later as we can accommodate these. Those that are destroyed are scanned into our admin system so we are able to provide the awarding bodies to candidates that are trying to track their grades.

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 an exams review

Senior leaders

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

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

Candidates

- Confirmation of entries
- Understanding controlled assessments and non-examination assessments regulations and signing a declaration that authenticates as their own.

Disability Discrimination Act

All exam centre staff must ensure that meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), extended in 2005, and the Disability Equality Duty (DED), introduced in 2006.

The DDA introduced measures aimed at eliminating the discrimination often faced by disabled people. The main provisions of the Act give protection to disabled people in the areas of employment and education.

'A person has a disability for the purposes of the DDA if s/he has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on her/his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Centre will meet the disability provisions under the Equality Act 2010, by ensuring that the exams Centre is accessible and improving candidate experience. This is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team and Exams Office