



**BYRCHALL**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

LIVE TO LEARN LEARN TO LIVE

# **EXAMS POLICY**

## **2023/24**

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# **BYRCHALL HIGH SCHOOL**

## **Exams policy**

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The policy is next due for review on **1 OCT 2024**

The purpose of this exams policy is:

- to ensure the planning and management of exams is conducted efficiently and in the best interests of candidates.
- to ensure the operation of an efficient exams system with clear guidelines for all relevant staff.

It is the responsibility of everyone involved in the centre's exam processes to read, understand, and implement this policy.

The exams policy will be reviewed every *year*

The exams policy will be reviewed by the *Deputy Head Teacher*

Where references are made to JCQ regulations/guidelines, further details can be found at [www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk).

## ***Exam responsibilities***

### **The head of centre:**

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

### **Exams officer<sup>1</sup>:**

- manages the administration of *internal exams and external exams*
- advises the senior leadership team, subject and class tutors, and other relevant support staff on annual exams timetables and procedures as set by the various awarding bodies.
- oversees the production and distribution to all centre staff and candidates, of an annual calendar for all exams in which candidates will be involved and communicates regularly with staff concerning imminent deadlines and events.
- ensures that candidates and their parents are informed of and understand those aspects of the exams timetable that will affect them.
- checks with teaching staff that the necessary coursework and/or controlled assessments are completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- provides and confirms detailed data on estimated entries. *no longer collected*
- maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their exams.
- receives, checks and stores securely all exam papers and completed scripts and ensures that scripts are dispatched as per the guidelines.
- Co-ordinates some access arrangements (e.g. scribes, separate rooms, etc) and makes applications for special consideration following the regulations in the JCQ publications for Access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration.
- identifies and manages exam timetable clashes.
- accounts for income and expenditures relating to all exam costs/charges.

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

- line manages a team of exam invigilators and organises the recruitment, training, and monitoring of a team of lead invigilators and exam invigilators responsible for the conduct of exams.
- ensures candidates' coursework / controlled assessment marks are submitted, and any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies correctly and on schedule.
- Tracks and dispatches returned coursework / controlled assessments.
- arranges for dissemination of exam results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the SLT, any post results service requests.

***Heads of department are responsible for:***

- guidance and pastoral oversight of candidates who are unsure about exams entries or amendments to entries.
- accurate completion of entry and all other mark sheets and adherence to deadlines as set by the exams officer.
- accurate completion of coursework / controlled assessment mark sheets and declaration sheets.
- decisions on post-results procedures.

**Teachers** are responsible for:

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

The ***special educational needs coordinator (SENDCO)*** is responsible for:

- identification and testing of candidates' requirements for access arrangements **processing of any necessary applications** in order to gain approval (if required).
- providing the access arrangements required by candidates in exams rooms.

**Lead invigilator/invigilators** are responsible for:

- assisting the exams officer in the efficient running of exams according to JCQ regulations.
- collection of exam papers and other material from the exams office before the start of the exam.
- collection of all exam papers in the correct order at the end of the exam and ensuring their return to the exams office.

**Candidates** are responsible for:

- confirmation and signing of entries.
- understanding coursework / controlled assessment regulations and signing a declaration that authenticates the coursework as their own.
- ensuring they conduct themselves in all exams according to the JCQ regulations.

## **Qualifications offered**

The qualifications offered at this centre are decided by the *Head of Centre*

The types of qualifications offered are *GCSE, BTEC, Cambridge Nationals, vocational*.

The subjects offered for these qualifications in any academic year may be found in the centre's published prospectus or similar documents for that year. If there is to be a change of specification for the next year, the exams office must be informed by *10 September*.

Informing the exams office of changes to a specification is the responsibility of the *Head of Department*

Decisions on whether a candidate should be entered for a particular subject will be taken by *Subject Teacher* in consultation with the *Head of Department and Deputy Head*

## **Exam series**

Internal exams (mock or trial exams) and assessments are scheduled in *November, January, February and May/June*.

External exams and assessments are scheduled in *January and May/June*.

Internal exams *are* held under external exam conditions.

The *Deputy Head* decides which exam series are used in the centre.

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

## **Exam timetables**

Once confirmed, the exams officer will circulate the exam timetables for *internal and external exams* at a specified date before each series begins.

## **Entries, entry details and late entries**

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

The centre *does not accept* entries from private candidates.

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

Entry deadlines are circulated to heads of department/curriculum via *email, noticeboard*

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

Entries and amendments made after an awarding organisation's deadline (i.e. late) require the authorisation, in writing, of *Head of Centre*

GCSE re-sits *are not allowed*

Re-sit decisions (Btec) will be made by *Head of Department* in consultation with *Deputy Head*

## **Exam fees**

Candidates or departments will not be charged for changes of tier, withdrawals made by the proper procedures or alterations arising from administrative processes provided these are made within the time allowed by the awarding bodies.

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

*GCSE entry exam fees, BTEC registration fees, BTEC re-sits fees, Cambridge National fees and vocational fees are paid by the centre,*

Late entry or amendment fees are paid by the *centre,*

Fee reimbursements *are not* sought from candidates:

- *If they fail to sit an exam*
- *If they do not meet the necessary coursework requirements without medical evidence or evidence of other mitigating circumstances*

Re-sit fees are paid by the *centre*

## **Equality Legislation**

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

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

## **Access arrangements**

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

A candidate's access arrangements requirement is determined by the **SENDCO**

Ensuring there is appropriate evidence for a candidate's access arrangement is the responsibility of **SENDCO**

Submitting completed access arrangement applications to the awarding bodies is the responsibility of the **SENDCO**

Rooming for access arrangement candidates will be arranged by the **SENDCO and Exams Officer**

Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates, as defined in the JCQ access arrangements regulations, will be organised by the **SENDCO**

### **Contingency planning**

Contingency planning for exams administration is the responsibility of the **Deputy Head**

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

Refer to the school's own Exams Contingency Plan.

### **Managing invigilators**

External staff **will** be used to invigilate examinations.

These invigilators will be used for **some internal exams and all external exams**

Recruitment of invigilators is the responsibility of the **Exams Officer**

Securing the necessary Criminal Records Bureau (DBS) clearance for new invigilators is the responsibility of the **School Business Manager**

CRB fees for securing such clearance **are** paid by the centre.

Invigilators rates of pay are set by the **School Business Manager**

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

For BCS qualifications all new invigilators will be observed during their first test session and annually thereafter to ensure assessment regulations are being followed.

For BCS qualifications existing invigilators will be observed conducting an assessment at least once a year.

### **Malpractice**

The head of centre in consultation with **Deputy Head** is responsible for investigating suspected malpractice. Refer to JCQ's Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessment booklet.

For any BCS qualifications, any cases of malpractice and maladministration must be reported to BCS immediately.

## ***Exam days***

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

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

The *Lead Invigilator* will start and finish all exams in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Subject staff *may not* be present at the start of the exam to assist with identification of candidates. Any staff present must be in accordance with the rules defined by JCQ concerning who is allowed and what they can do. SLT will assist with identification of candidates. All candidates are provided with an exam candidate card which includes a photo. Invigilators are provided with seating plans for exam rooms according to JCQ and awarding body requirements.

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

Exam papers must not be read by subject teachers or removed from the exam room before the end of a session. Papers will be distributed to heads of department in accordance with JCQ's recommendations and no later than *one day* after candidates have completed it.

After an exam, the exams officer will arrange for the safe dispatch of completed examination scripts to awarding bodies, working in conjunction with *Parcel Force*

## ***Candidates***

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

The centre's published rules on acceptable dress and behaviour apply at all times. Candidates' personal belongings remain their own responsibility and the centre accepts no liability for their loss or damage.

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

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

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



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

### **Clash candidates**

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

### **Special consideration**

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

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

The exams officer will make a special consideration application to the relevant awarding body within *ten* days of the exam.

### **Internal assessment**

It is the duty of heads of department to ensure that all internal assessment is ready for dispatch at the correct time. *The exams officer will assist by keeping a record of each dispatch, including the recipient details and the date and time sent. Heads of Department also need to inform candidates of the marks which have been submitted to the awarding body, but in doing so must make it clear that those marks are subject to change through the moderation process. Candidates should be advised of their marks within a sufficient window in order to allow time for any internal appeal to be concluded **prior to** the submission of centre marks to the awarding body.*

Marks for all internally assessed work are provided to the exams office by the *Head of Department*. The exams officer will inform staff of the date when appeals against internal assessments must be made by. Any appeals will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's Appeals against Internal Assessment of Work, which can be found in the Exams Procedure booklet and at the back of this policy.

### **Results**

Candidates will receive individual result slips on results days,

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

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

The provision of the necessary staff on results days is the responsibility of the *Deputy Head*

### ***Enquiries about Results (EAR)***

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

The cost of EARs will be paid by the *centre unless it is a parental request*

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

If a candidate's request for an EAR is not supported by the school, the candidate may place a request at their own expense and the centre will respond by following the process in its Post Results procedure .

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

### ***Access to Scripts (ATS)***

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

Centre staff may also request scripts for investigation or for teaching purposes. For *all scripts*, the consent of candidates must be obtained.

Re-marks cannot be applied for once an original script has been returned.

The cost of ATS will be paid by the *centre*

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

## **Certificates**

Candidates will receive their certificates through the post.

The centre retains certificates for *one* year, if they have not been posted.

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

Head of centre

Exams officer

.....ARB.....

.....DL.....

Date

.....01/10/2023.....

## Appendix A

	<b>General roles</b>	<b>Access arrangements / special consideration roles</b>	<b>Invigilator / invigilation / malpractice roles</b>
<b>Possible role options for inclusion in policy (select as many as required)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of centre</li> <li>• Deputy head</li> <li>• Heads of faculty</li> <li>• Heads of subject</li> <li>• Heads of department</li> <li>• Heads of curriculum</li> <li>• Head of key stage</li> <li>• Senior leadership team</li> <li>• Exams officer</li> <li>• SENDCO</li> <li>• Subject teachers</li> <li>• Governors</li> <li>• Trustees</li> <li>• Candidate</li> <li>• Parent/carers</li> <li>• School Business Manager</li> <li>• Head of Year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SENDCO</li> <li>• ALS manager</li> <li>• Doctor</li> <li>• Pastoral teacher</li> <li>• Educational psychologist</li> <li>• Specialist teacher</li> <li>• Exams officer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exams officer</li> <li>• Centre administration</li> <li>• Support staff</li> <li>• Senior leaders</li> <li>• External staff</li> <li>• Agency employees</li> <li>• Head of centre</li> <li>• Senior leadership team</li> <li>• Senior Invigilator</li> <li>• Invigilator</li> </ul>