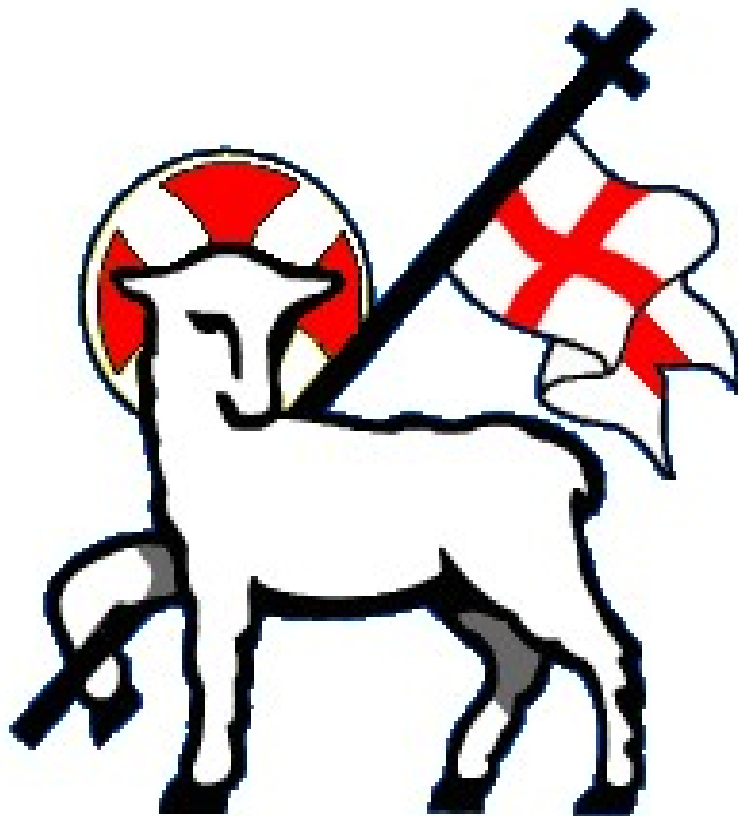


*St. John Baptist Church in Wales High
School*



EXAMS POLICY

Exam Policy

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Rationale

The purpose of this exam policy is:

- to ensure the planning and management of exams is conducted efficiently and in the best interest of candidates
- to ensure the operation of an efficient exam 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.

This exam policy will be reviewed annually.

This exam policy will be reviewed by the Deputy Head teacher, Senior Team, Exams Officer and the Governors.

1. Exam responsibilities

Head of centre

Overall responsibility for the school/college as an exam centre:

- advises on appeals and re-marks
- the head of centre is responsible for reporting all suspicions or actual incidents of malpractice. Refer to the JCQ document *Suspected malpractice in examinations and assessments*.

Exams Officer

Manages the administration of public exams and analysis of exam results:

- advises the senior management team, subject and class tutors and other relevant support staff on annual exam timetables and application procedures as set by the various exam boards
- oversees the production and distribution to staff, governors 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 exam timetable that will affect them
- consults with teaching staff to ensure that necessary coursework is completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines
- provides and confirms detailed data on estimated entries
- receives, checks and stores securely all exam papers and completed scripts
- administers access arrangements and makes applications for special consideration using the JCQ *Access arrangements and special considerations regulations* and *Guidance relating to candidates who are eligible for adjustments in examinations*
- identifies and manages exam timetable clashes
- accounts for income and expenditures relating to all exam costs/charges
- line manages the senior exams invigilator in organising the recruitment, training and monitoring of a team of exams invigilators responsible for the conduct of exams
- prepares and presents reports to the Curriculum Leaders showing results achieved in relation to expected grades and comparable data for previous years.

- submits candidates' coursework, tracks despatch and stores returned coursework and any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies.
- arranges for dissemination of exam results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the SMT, any appeals/re-mark requests
- maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their exams.

Director of Studies / Curriculum Leaders

- Organisation of teaching and learning.
- External validation of courses followed at key stage 4 / post-16.

Curriculum Leaders

- Guide candidates regarding exam entries or amendments to entries
- Involvement in post-results procedures.
- Accurate completion of coursework mark entries, controlled assessments, forecast grades and declaration sheets.
- Accurate completion of entry and all other mark sheets and adherence to deadlines as set by the Exams Officer.

Head of careers

- Guidance and careers information.

Teachers

- Notify any pupils to SENCO who may require access arrangements (as soon as possible after the start of the course).
- Submission of candidate names to Curriculum Leaders

SENCO

- A candidate's access arrangement requirement is determined by the SENCO.
- Identification and testing of candidates' requirements for access arrangements.
- Provision of additional support — with spelling, reading, mathematics, dyslexia or essential skills, hearing impairment, English for speakers of other languages, IT equipment — to help candidates achieve their course aims.

Exams Officer /Invigilators

- 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 their return to the exams office.

Candidates

- Confirmation and signing of entries.
- Understanding coursework regulations and signing a declaration that authenticates the coursework as their own.

Administrative staff

- Support for the input of data.
- Posting of exam papers.

2. The statutory tests and qualifications offered

The statutory tests and qualifications offered at this centre are decided by the head of centre, heads of curriculum and the senior management team.

The statutory tests and qualifications offered are GCSE, A levels, AS, Welsh Baccalaureate, Essential Key Skills, Nationals, BTEC and ASDAN.

The subjects offered for these qualifications in any academic year may be found in the centre's published prospectus for that year. If there has been a change of syllabus from the previous year, the exams office must be informed.

All candidates will be awarded levels based on teacher assessment. Pupil targets are issued by Curriculum areas, (both core and non-core) throughout the Key Stage, with candidates being made fully aware as to their target grade expectations. Decisions on whether candidates should not take an individual subject or all NCTs will be taken in consultation with the candidates, parents/carers, head of key stage and the Deputy Head teacher.

At key stage 4

All candidates will be entitled, and enabled, to achieve an entry for qualifications from an external awarding body.

At post-16

It is expected that AS/A2 modules will be completed during year 12/13

3. Exam seasons and timetables

3.1 Exam seasons

Internal exams are scheduled in December and May/June.

External exams are scheduled in November, January, March, May and June.

All internal exams are held under external exam conditions.

The exam series used in the centre is decided by the Head of Centre and the Senior Leadership Team.

3.2 Timetables

The exams officer will circulate the exam timetables for external exams once these are confirmed.

4. Entries, entry details, late entries and retakes

4.1 Entries

Candidates are selected for their exam entries by the Curriculum Leaders and the Subject Teachers.

A candidate or parent/carer can request a subject entry, change of level or withdrawal but final decision rests with the school.

The centre does not accept entries from external candidates, except in exceptional circumstances.

4.2 Late entries

Entry deadlines are circulated to Curriculum Leaders via yearly calendar and intranet.

Late entries are authorised by Head of Senior School, Curriculum Leaders, Exams Officer/Assistant Head.

4.3 Resits

Candidates are allowed resits in GCSE.
Candidates are allowed resits at AS.

Resit decisions will be made in consultation with the candidates, subject teachers, Exams Officer, Assistant Head and Curriculum Leaders.

(See also section 5: Exam fees)

5. Exam fees

GCSE initial registration and entry exam fees are paid by the centre.

AS initial registration and entry exam fees are paid by the centre.

A2 initial registration and entry exam fees are paid by the centre.

First resit will be paid for by school and all others

Late entry or amendment fees are paid by the departments.

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

Reimbursement will be sought from candidates who fail to sit an exam or meet the necessary coursework requirements.

Candidates must pay the fee for an enquiry about a result, however, should the overall grade increase, reimbursement of the fee will be made. (See also section 11.2: Enquiries about results [EARs])

6. The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), special needs and access arrangements

6.1 DDA

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 extends the application of the DDA to general qualifications. All exam centre staff must ensure that the access arrangements and special consideration regulations and guidance are consistent with the law.

6.2 Special needs

A candidate's special needs requirements are determined by the SENCO and the educational psychologist / specialist teacher.

The SENCO will inform subject teachers of candidates with special educational needs who are embarking on a course leading to an exam, and the date of that exam. The SENCO can then inform individual staff of

any special arrangements that individual candidates may be granted during the course and in the exam.

6.3 Access arrangements.

(All access arrangements for pupils must be their normal way of working)

Making special arrangements for candidates to take exams is the responsibility of the SENCO and the exams officer.

Submitting completed access arrangement applications to the awarding bodies is the responsibility of the exams officer.

Rooming for access arrangement candidates will be arranged by the exams officer.

Invigilation and support for access arrangement candidates will be organised by the SENCO with the exams officer.

Extra time pupils will take exam in Sports Hall

Extra time pupils with CAMHS referral relating to mental health issues will be allowed to take exams in separate room.

7. Managing invigilators and exam days

8.1 Managing invigilators

External invigilators will be used for exam supervision. They will be used for all exams.

The 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 exams office.

Invigilators are timetabled and trained by the Exams Officer.

Invigilators' rates of pay are set by the centre administration.

8.2 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 is responsible for setting up the allocated rooms.

The Exams Officer / Senior invigilator will start all exams in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Subject staff may be present at the start of the exam to assist with identification of candidates but must not advise on which questions are to be attempted.

In practical exams subject teachers may be on hand in case of any technical difficulties.

Exam papers must not be read by subject teachers or removed from the exam room before the end of a session. Surplus papers will be distributed to heads of department/faculty at the end of the exam session.

8. Candidates, clash candidates and special consideration

9.1 Candidates

The centre's published rules on acceptable dress, behaviour and candidates' use of mobile phones and all electronic devices apply at all times.

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

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 Exams Officer or Lead Invigilator.

The Exams Officer will attempt to contact any candidate who is not present at the start of an exam and deal with them in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

9.2 Clash candidates

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

9.3 Special Consideration

Should a candidate be too ill to sit an exam, suffer bereavement or other trauma or be taken ill during the exam itself, 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 will then forward a completed special consideration form to the relevant awarding body within seven days of the exam.

9. Internal Assessments and Appeals

Internal assessment replaces the largely discontinued term coursework

10.1 Internal Assessments

Candidates who have to prepare portfolios should do so by the end of the course or centre-defined date.

With BTEC courses, if candidates fail to complete a course the Teacher should ensure there is credit obtained for the Units / Parts of the course that have been completed. Part certification may be transferred at a later date to similar or additional courses.

Curriculum Leaders will ensure all coursework/controlled tasks is ready for despatch at the correct time and the Exams Officer will keep a record of what has been sent when and to whom.

Marks for all internally assessed work are provided to the exams office by the subject teachers, and the heads of department.

10.2 Appeals against Internal Assessments

The process for managing appeals against Internal Assessments is detailed in a separate Appeals Policy available from the Exams Office.

The main points are:

- Controlled assessment involves different stages of assessment:
- Task setting
- Task taking
- Task marking
- In some subjects, work will be marked by the Awarding Body. For most subjects however, work will be marked by the centre and moderated by the Awarding Body

- Appeals will only be entertained if they apply to the process leading to an assessment. There is no appeal against the mark or grade awarded
- Candidates may appeal if they feel their coursework has been assessed unfairly, inconsistently or not in accordance with the specification for the qualification
- Appeals should be made in writing by 30 June to the Head of Centre (or Assistant Head of Examinations) who will decide whether the process used conformed to the necessary requirements
- The Head of Centre's findings will be notified in writing, copied to the exams officer and recorded for awarding body inspection.

10. Results, enquiries about results (EARs) and access to scripts (ATS)

11.1 Results

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

Arrangements for the school to be open on results days are made by the Head of Centre.

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

The centre aggregates at the end of year 12 for AS grades, and at the end of year 13 for A2 grades.

11.2 Enquiries About Results (EARs)

EARs may be requested by centre staff or candidates if there are reasonable grounds for believing there has been an error in marking.

A candidate may apply to have an enquiry carried out. If a candidate requires then they will be charged the appropriate fee. (See section 5: Exam fees)

11.3 Access to Scripts (ATS)

After the release of results, candidates may ask subject staff to request the return of papers within three days' scrutiny of the results.

If a result is queried, the Exams Officer, teaching staff and Head of Centre will investigate the feasibility of asking for a re-mark at the centre's expense.

When the centre does not support a candidate's or parent's request for an EAR, a candidate may apply to have an enquiry carried out. If a candidate requires this against the advice of subject staff, they will be charged.

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

GCSE re-marks cannot be applied for once a script has been returned.

11. Certificates

Certificates are collected and signed for.

Certificates may be collected on behalf of a candidate by a third party, provided they have been authorised to do so.

Certificates are withheld from candidates who owe fees.

The centre retains certificates under secure conditions for a minimum period of 12 months. After that they will be destroyed by a secure method. A record of all certificates destroyed will be kept for a further 4 years.

The above complies with the inter-board (QCA) Policy

Dr S M Mitchell

Mrs A Iles

Head of Centre

Examinations Officer

To be reviewed January 2025