



CAISTOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Exams Policy

2025/26

Approved by Full Board of Trustees:

March 2026

Last reviewed:

February 2026

Signed:

Lucy Jackson

Chair of Trustees

Key staff involved in the exams policy

Role	Name(s)
Head of centre	Shona Buck
Exams Officer Line Manager (Senior Leader)	Chris Frost
Exams Officer	Samantha Johnson
SENCo	Fiona Hargreaves
SLT Member(s)	Steven Kemshall
	Marcus Croft
	Athanasia Ellerby

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Purpose of the Policy

Caistor Grammar School 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 Caistor Grammar Schools 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 Caistor Grammar School 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
- This policy is reviewed annually to ensure ways of working at Caistor Grammar School are accurately reflected and that exams and assessments are conducted to current JCQ (and awarding body) regulations, instructions and guidance.

This policy will be communicated to all relevant Caistor Grammar School staff and students. It will be available on the school website and highlighted to all staff as part of their induction process. After reviewing each year, staff will be reminded to familiarise themselves with it again. When students commence external exam courses, they will be advised where to view the policy.

Roles and 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 in order 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 published JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements.

The examinations officer is the person appointed by the head of centre to act on behalf of, and be the main point of contact for, the centre in matters relating to the general administration of awarding body examinations and assessments.

The head of centre cannot also be the examinations officer. A head of centre and an examinations officer are two distinct and separate roles. [GR2]

Head of Centre responsibilities

The 'Head of Centre' is the most senior operational officer in the organisation. This may be the Headteacher of a school, the Principal of a college, the Chief Executive Officer of an Academy Trust or the Managing Director of a company or training provider. 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 document Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures, 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026.

For details about specific Head of Centre responsibilities, see sections 1, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16, 24, Appendix 1-section 6 and Appendix 8. (ICE Introduction)

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant Caistor Grammar School staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - General Regulations for Approved Centres (GR)
 - Instructions for Conducting Examinations (ICE)
 - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AA)
 - Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures (SM)
 - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (NEA) (and the instructions for conducting coursework)

- A guide to the special consideration process (SC)
- Ensures that Caistor Grammar School has appropriate exam accommodation to support the size of the cohorts being taught including appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements for exams and assessments
- Takes responsibility for responding to the National Centre Number Register annual update (administered on behalf of the JCQ member awarding bodies by OCR ocr.org.uk/administration/stage-1-preparation/ncn-annual-update/) by the end of October each year confirming they are both aware of and adhering to the latest version of the JCQ regulations and signs and returns the head of centre's declaration which is then kept on file for inspection purposes

National Centre Number Register

- Takes responsibility for confirming, on an annual basis, that they are aware of and adhering to the latest version of the JCQ's regulations by responding to the head of centre's declaration which is managed as part of the National Centre Number Register (NCNR) annual update
- Understands that this responsibility cannot be delegated to a member of the senior leadership team or the examinations officer, and acknowledges that failure to respond to the NCNR annual update, and/or the head of centre's declaration, will result in:
 - the centre status being suspended
 - the centre not being able to submit examination entries
 - the centre not receiving or being able to access question papers

Head of Centre declaration

The Head of Centre declaration for each year is filed in the JCQ Inspection folder in the Exam Department.

Recruitment, Selection and Training of Staff (GR 5.3)

- 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
- Have succession arrangements for members of staff involved in examination and assessment administration
- Provides fully qualified teachers to mark non-examination assessments, and/or fully qualified assessors for the verification of centre-assessed components
- Enable the relevant senior leader(s), teachers, the examinations officer and the SENCo to receive appropriate training and support to facilitate the effective delivery of examinations and assessments at CGS and ensure compliance with the published JCQ and awarding body regulations. The SENCo, the centre's appointed access arrangements assessor and the examinations officer must all undertake regular CPD, such as attending an annual update course.
- Appoints an ALS lead / SENCo who will determine appropriate arrangements for candidates with learning difficulties and disabilities

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
- Has in place a member of the senior leadership team who has a good working knowledge of the examination system, will provide effective line management support and supervision of the

examinations officer to ensure that the integrity and security of examinations and assessments are maintained throughout an examination series

Escalation Process

It is the responsibility of the **head of centre** to ensure that his/her centre... 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 (GR5.3)

- Should the Head of Centre or Exam Line Manager be absent, the role of Exams oversight would pass to Marcus Croft, Assistant Head, Teaching and Learning, assisted by Athanasia Ellerby, Assistant Head. Marcus Croft has keys to the secure room and is familiar with exam and JCQ processes.
- Mr Chris Frost, Assistant Head and member of the Senior Leadership Team, is the line manager to the Exams Officer, provides support and guidance to the role and ensures the integrity and security of examinations and assessments is maintained throughout an examination series
- Head of Centre ensures Caistor Grammar School staff undertake key tasks within the exams process and meet internal deadlines set by the EO
- Head of Centre 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 an examination

Delivery of Qualifications

- Delivers qualifications, as required by the awarding body, in accordance with relevant equality legislation. This includes but is not limited to ensuring that qualifications are made
- available to all candidates capable of undertaking them and seeking reasonable adjustments for disabled candidates
- Enables candidates to receive sufficient and up to date laboratory experience, or relevant training where required by the subject concerned

Public Liability

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

Conflicts of Interest

- manages conflicts of interest by informing the awarding bodies, before the published deadline for entries for each examination series, of:
 - any members of centre staff who are taking qualifications at their own centre which include internally-assessed components/units;
 - any members of centre staff who are teaching and preparing members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) for qualifications which include internally-assessed components/units;

and maintains internal records of all instances where:

- exams office staff have members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) being entered for examinations and assessments, either at the centre itself or other centres;
- centre staff are taking qualifications at their own centre which do not include internally-assessed components/units;
- centre staff are taking qualifications at other centres.

*The head of centre **must** retain records of all conflicts of interest, including details of the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected. The records may be inspected by a JCQ Centre Inspector and/or awarding body staff. They might be requested in the event of concerns being reported to an awarding body. The records **must** be retained until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later (GR5.3)*

Heads of centre should 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.

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

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 Caistor Grammar School 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 handed over to authorised members of Caistor Grammar School staff
 - access to the secure room and secure storage facility is restricted to the authorised 3 keyholders, these keyholders are currently Samantha Johnson & Marcus Croft
 - 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 Caistor Grammar School staff
 - that assessment materials supplied to the centre by the awarding body, including pre-release materials and set assignments, and information about their contents are only shared with appropriate centre staff and candidates and are not shared outside of the centre
 - reporting **immediately** to the awarding body/bodies any potential or actual breach of examination or assessment materials
- 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 access, download, print (where appropriate) and store electronic assessment materials safely and securely at all times in accordance with section 4 of the JCQ document 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
- Obtains written approval from the relevant awarding body before permitting a third party to deliver any part of a qualification including assessments
- 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 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 to act immediately in the event of an emergency or staff absence)

Policies Available for Inspection

CGS will have in place the following written policies for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually by a member of the senior leadership team and communicated within the centre:

- a child protection/safeguarding policy, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements;
- a complaints policy;
- a conflicts of interest policy;
- a contingency plan which covers all aspects of examination/assessment administration and delivery; a data protection policy;
- an equalities policy;
- an internal appeals procedure which **must** cover at least appeals regarding internal assessment decisions, access to post-result services and appeals, and centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration;
- a malpractice policy which covers all qualifications delivered by the centre.

The policy **must** detail how candidates are informed and advised to avoid committing malpractice in examinations/assessments and how suspected malpractice issues should be escalated within the centre and reported to the relevant awarding body. It **must** also acknowledge the use of AI (e.g. what AI is, when it may be used and how it should be acknowledged, the risks of using AI, what AI misuse is and how this will be treated as malpractice).

- a policy regarding the management of non-examination assessments, including controlled assessments and coursework, which includes details on how candidates' work will be authenticated.
- a whistleblowing policy;
- a policy on the use of word processors in examinations

Exam contingency plan

The Exam Contingency Plan is included here at Appendix A.

The contingency plan must cover all aspects of examination/assessment administration and delivery. Senior leaders must have robust contingency arrangements in place that will minimise the risk to examination/assessment administration and delivery and any adverse impact on candidates. The plan must cover the following scenarios: • the head of centre, relevant senior leader(s) with oversight of examination and assessment administration, SENCo/ALNCo, examinations officer or any other key staff essential to the examination process being absent at a critical stage of the examination cycle; • the potential impact of other events, such as flooding, which could lead to all or parts of the centre becoming unavailable; • potential issues with the centre's IT systems. As part of their contingency plan centres must identify an alternative site or alternative sites which can be used if examinations cannot be conducted at the registered address. (GR3.17)

Exam Internal appeals procedures

The Exam Internal Appeals Procedure is included here at Appendix B.

The centre will... have in place and be 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 5.7g)

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 an application for a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal; (A centre may place its internal appeals procedure on the school/college website or, alternatively, the document may be made available to candidates upon request. (GR5.13i)

- Ensures required internal appeals procedures are in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and (where relevant) their parents/carers
- Ensures the Caistor Grammar School equalities policy demonstrating compliance with relevant legislation is in place and details the processes followed in respect of identifying the need for, requesting and implementing access arrangements

Equalities Policy

The Equalities Policy (exams) is located at Appendix C.

Complaints and Appeals Procedure

This is available at Appendix D.

- Ensures a complaints and appeals procedure covering general complaints regarding Caistor Grammar School's delivery or administration of a qualification is in place and drawn to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers

Child protection/safeguarding policy

The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website.

- Ensures that Caistor Grammar School has a child protection/safeguarding policy in place, including Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, which satisfies current legislative requirements

Data protection policy

The head of centre or a member of the senior leadership team must advise any person involved in administering, teaching or completing examinations/assessments 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 document Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures (GR 6.2)

The GDPR Data protection policy is available on the school website. Students own their results. Parents and any other third party can only access results with student consent. We do not share named results with anyone, except government bodies as required.

- Ensures that Caistor Grammar School has a data protection policy in place that complies with UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 regulations

Access arrangements policy

This is available at Appendix E.

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

- Ensures Caistor Grammar School has documented processes in place relating to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments
- Ensures members of Caistor Grammar School staff do **not** forward e-mails and letters from awarding body or JCQ personnel without prior consent to third parties or upload such correspondence onto social media sites and applications

Centre Inspection

- Co-operates with the JCQ Centre Inspection Service, an awarding body or a regulatory authority when subject to an inspection, an investigation, an unannounced visit or any requests for information within a stipulated timeframe
- Allows all venues used for examinations and assessments, paperwork and secure storage facilities to be open to inspection
- The JCQ Centre Inspector will identify themselves with a formal identity document and must be accompanied throughout their tour of the premises, including inspection of the centre's secure storage facility

Here ends the section of the head of centre responsibilities and those of other staff are as follows:

Exams Officer

- 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 each year
- 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)
- 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 of any Conflict of Interest declared by members of Caistor Grammar School 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

- Briefs other relevant Caistor Grammar School 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 Caistor Grammar School staff to annually updated JCQ publications including:
 - General Regulations for Approved Centres
 - Instructions for Conducting Examinations
 - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments
 - Suspected Malpractice- Policies and Procedures
 - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (and the instructions for conducting coursework)
 - A guide to the special consideration process

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)

- Understands the contents, refers to and directs relevant Caistor Grammar School 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

Head of Department (HoD)

- Ensures teaching staff undertake key tasks, as detailed in this policy, within the exams process (exam cycle) and meet internal deadlines set by the EO and SENCo
- Ensures teaching staff keep themselves updated with awarding body subject and teacher-specific information to confirm effective delivery of qualifications
- Ensures teaching staff attend relevant awarding body training and update events

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, briefing and review sessions as required
- Complete the online accreditation annually
- 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 Caistor Grammar School staff within this cycle.

Planning: roles and responsibilities

Information Sharing

Head of Centre

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

Exams Officer

- Signposts relevant Caistor Grammar School staff to JCQ publications and awarding body documentation relating to the exams process that have been updated
- Signposts relevant Caistor Grammar School staff to JCQ information that should be provided to candidates
- As the centre administrator, approves relevant access rights for Caistor Grammar School 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 Caistor Grammar School staff of internal deadlines
- Collects information on internal exams to enable preparation for and conduct of mock and end of year exams

Senior Leaders

- Responds (or ensures teaching staff respond) to requests from the EO on information gathering
- Meets the internal deadline for the return of information
- Informs the EO of any changes to information in a timely manner minimising the risk of late or other penalty fees being incurred by an awarding body
- Notes the internal deadlines in the annual exams plan and directs teaching staff to meet these

Access Arrangements

Head of Centre

- Ensures there is appropriate accommodation for candidates requiring access arrangements in Caistor Grammar School for all examinations and assessments
- Ensures the quality of the access arrangements/reasonable adjustments process within the centre; **and**
- the appointment of assessors, checking the qualifications of those assessing candidates (e.g. photocopy of certificate or printout of screenshot of HCPC or SASC registration)
- 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
- Gathers **evidence** to support the need for access arrangements for a candidate, official evidence to support a need should come from a hospital consultation not from a GP letter
- 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, Privacy Notice (AAO) and Data Protection confirmation** forms (candidate personal data consent form) from candidates where required
- Applies, with the Exams officer, 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 documentation is stored electronically, an e-folder must be created for each individual candidate.
- 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 appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular arrangement(s) and keeps a record of the content of training provided to facilitators for the required period
- Works with the EO to ensure invigilators and those acting as a facilitator fully understand the respective role and what is and what is not permissible in the exam room

Senior Leaders, Head of Department, Teaching Staff

- Support the SENCo in determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements
- Provide a statement for inspection purposes which details the criteria Caistor Grammar School uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations

Word Processor Policy (Exams)

The Guidelines for the Use of Word Processors Policy can be found on the school website.

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. (see AA 5.8 for examples)

A member of the centre's senior leadership team must produce a word processor policy, specific to the centre, which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations and assessments. This policy must be available for inspection. [AA5.8]

Alternative Rooming Arrangement within CGS

Alternative Rooming Arrangement see the Access Arrangements policy at Appendix E.

The SENCo must make their decision based on:

- whether the candidate has a substantial and long-term impairment which has an adverse effect;
and • the candidate's normal way of working within the centre.

In the case of alternative rooming arrangements, the candidate's disability **is established within the centre** (see Chapter 4, paragraph 4.1.4). This means it is known to a Form Tutor, a Head of Year, the SENCo or a senior member of staff with pastoral responsibilities. For example, a long-term medical condition which has a substantial and adverse effect.

Alternative rooming arrangements **must** reflect the candidate's normal and current way of working in internal school/college tests and mock examinations.

Nervousness, low level anxiety or being worried about examinations **is not** sufficient grounds for separate invigilation within the centre.

The use of an alternative room with one-to-one invigilation **must only** apply where the candidate has a serious medical condition, such as frequent seizures, Tourette's or significant behavioural issues which would disturb other candidates in the examination room. (AA5.16)

- Ensures criteria for candidates granted alternative room arrangement within Caistor Grammar School is clear, meets JCQ regulations and best meets the needs of individual candidates and remaining candidates in main exam rooms

Non-examination assessment policy

The Non-examination assessment policy is located at Appendix F

The centre will... have in place and be 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 [GR5.7]

Awarding bodies require each centre to have a non-examination assessment policy in place to:

- to cover procedures for planning and managing non-examination assessments;
- to define staff roles and responsibilities for non-examination assessments;
- to manage risks associated with non-examination assessments.

A JCQ Centre Inspector may ask the examinations officer to confirm that a policy is in place.

[NEA 1]

Internal Assessment and Endorsements

Head of Centre

Controlled Assessments, Coursework and Non-Examination Assessments

- 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
- Ensures an **internal appeals procedure** relating to internal assessment decisions is in place for a candidate to appeal against and request a review of Caistor Grammar Schools 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
- 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 follow JCQ Instructions for conducting coursework and the specification provided by the awarding body

Head of Department

- Ensures teaching staff delivering GCE & 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 Caistor Grammar Schools 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 Caistor Grammar Schools marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body; see NEA Procedure for more details

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 in school training for new invigilators on the instructions for conducting exams and an annual in school training update for the existing invigilation team so they are aware of any changes in a new academic year before they are allocated to invigilate an exam.
- Ensures invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates understand their role (and the role of a facilitator who may be supporting a candidate) and the rules and regulations of the access arrangement(s)
- Ensures invigilators are briefed on the access arrangement candidates in their exam room and made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded (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
- Maintains regular contact with the invigilators, minimum each half term

Entries: roles and responsibilities

Estimated entries collection and submission procedure

Estimated entries are collected as part of the data collection exercise that is done at the end of the main summer exam season, relating to the main summer season for the following year. The EO confirms with Heads of Department which exam boards, courses and course codes are being taught along with estimated number of entry for each.

The Exam Officer inputs estimated entries directly to the exam boards as required.

Exams Officer

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

Head of Department

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

Final entries collection and submission procedure

Final entries are confirmed to EO using Bromcom generated class lists, this is then sent to Heads of Department as a PDF via email. Heads of Department then either return a confirmation email or sign agreement against exam board generated entry confirmations. This is done in advance of the final entry date to allow for errors to be rectified.

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 bodies terms and conditions for the entry and withdrawal of candidates for their examinations and assessments

Head of Department

- Provides information requested by the EO to the internal deadline
- Informs the EO immediately, or at the very least prior to the deadlines, of any subsequent changes to final entry information, which includes
 - changes to candidate personal details
 - amendments to existing entries
 - withdrawals of existing entries
- Checks final entry submission information provided by the EO and confirms information is correct
- Ensures that amendments are submitted by the internal deadline to allow changes to be made ahead of the Exam Board amendment deadline

Entry fees

Caistor Grammar School does not charge entry fees for school taught general qualifications. For private candidates (see below) or subjects not taught at CGS, an invoice will be sent prior to the entry deadline. This will cover entry fees, administrative fees and where relevant time for invigilation and EO time if no other exam is being sat in that session. The fees are to be paid before the entry is made, as per instructions from the Finance Department.

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

Private candidates

Caistor Grammar School does not accept external Private Candidates. In exceptional circumstances the Head of Centre may allow a student to sit, for eg an additional language, or for sixth form students subjects studied privately. Students wishing to retake A Level exams will be allowed at the discretion of the Head of Centre. All fees plus an admin fee will be paid in full by the candidate before the entry is made.

When Private Candidate are accepted (normally current students at the school, and no younger than year 10) they will contact the Exam Officer in the December or January prior to the summer season, to give the information for entries ie Awarding Body and Entry Code and Tier. Once this has been sent, Basedata for those entries will be downloaded to allow date, time and duration of each paper to be established for fee calculations. Fees will include the Awarding Body entry fee, administration fee of 5 hours, additional fees for invigilators if the student is the sole candidate for that room, additional fees if the student is the sole candidate for that session. There will be the option to sit a mock MFL speaking in preparation and this will be included in the fee if required. Fees will be calculated with the Finance Department

- Exam Officer will send a letter to the parent(s) outlining the fees to be paid and include the entry marksheet detailing exam entry code and student name
- Exam Officer will create an item on Bromcom for the entry fees
- Parents are to email Exam Officer once the payment has been sent
- Parents to check and sign the entry marksheet

Private Candidates once entered will be treated the same as internal candidates in regards to entry statements and dissemination of Exam Information.

Candidate statements of entry

Exams Officer

- Provides candidates with statements of entry for checking mid February via the form tutor or head of section

Teaching staff/Form Tutor/Head of Section

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

Candidates

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

Pre-exams: roles and responsibilities

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 them
- Ensures exam information (JCQ information for candidates information, individual exam timetable etc.) is adapted where this may be required for a disabled candidate to access it
- With the EO allocates appropriately trained Caistor Grammar School 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 particular 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 Caistor Grammar Schools appointed assessor

Briefing Candidates

Exams Officer

- Issues individual exam timetable information to candidates and informs candidates of any contingency day awarding bodies may identify in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams, they will also be signposted to the general timetable on the school website. (EO will send the general timetable to the relevant staff to be published on the school website)
- Prior to exams issues relevant JCQ Information for Candidates documents via email, with Notices to Candidates printed on the back of their personalised timetable
- Where relevant, issues relevant awarding body information to candidates
- Issues Caistor Grammar School exam information to candidates including information on:
 - what time to arrive for the exams
 - exam timetable clashes
 - arriving late for an exam
 - absence or illness during exams
 - what equipment is/is not provided by Caistor Grammar School
 - calculator rules and regulations

- food and drink in exam rooms
- wrist watches in exam rooms and other prohibited items
- when and how results will be issued and the staff that will be available
- the post-results services and how Caistor Grammar School deals with requests from candidates
- when and how certificates will be issued

Dispatch of Exam Scripts

Centres must:

- a. despatch scripts and accompanying attendance registers to the address provided on the same day of the examination, wherever possible;
- b. ensure that any scripts that cannot be despatched on the scheduled day of the examination are despatched no later than the next working day;
- c. retain scripts in the centre's secure room if kept within the centre overnight.

Centres should try to despatch scripts from the morning and afternoon sessions of Friday 22 May 2026 that afternoon. If this is not possible, scripts must be retained in the secure room and be despatched as early as possible on Tuesday 26 May 2026 (ICE 29)

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

Internal Assessment and Endorsements

Head of Centre

- Ensures procedures are in place for candidates to appeal internal assessment decisions and make requests for reviews of marking

SENCo

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

Teaching Staff

- Support the SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates undertaking internal assessments and practical endorsements
- Assess and authenticate candidates' work
- Assess endorsed components
- Ensure candidates are informed of centre assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to awarding bodies

Head of Department

- 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 by 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

- 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
- 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 annually on any regulation changes Signpost where the online TEO training can be found, and ensures completion of the necessary training
- Deploys invigilators effectively to exam rooms throughout an exam series
- 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 Centre Inspections

Exams Officer or Senior Leader

- Will accompany the Inspector throughout a visit

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

Verifying candidate identity procedure

Year 7-11 candidates are to take exams in full Caistor Grammar School uniform or full CGS PE kit. Name cards with photograph and candidate details will be on each desk. Sixth form students are expected to wear their sixth form ID lanyard, they too will have a photo name card on the exam desk they are to use. The EO, and/or a member of the SLT will verify each candidate's identity. Students wearing a veil or any type of head / face covering will be taken to an appropriate room and be required to remove it and show their face to confirm identity, to an appropriate member of the exams team or SLT in a private place.

The head of centre must make sure that appropriate arrangements are in place so that invigilators can carry out adequate checks on the identity of all candidates.

Senior members of centre staff who have been authorised by their head of centre, such as an Assistant Headteacher, may be present at the start of the examination to assist with the identification of candidates.

When identifying candidates, the attendance register should ideally be completed (see section 22).

A private or external candidate or a transferred candidate who is not known to the school or college must show photographic documentary evidence to prove that they are the same person who entered or registered for the examination or assessment, e.g. a passport or photographic driving licence.

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, then taken to a private room and 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 their religious clothing and proceed as normal to sit the examination.

Invigilators must be informed of those candidates with access arrangements and must be made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded

(ICE section 16)

Centres must pay close attention to the completion of the attendance register. Failure to do so will affect an awarding body's ability to deliver an accurate set of results.

The attendance register is a key part of the process of identifying candidates present in the examination room

(ICE 22.1 and 22.2)

Exams Officer

- Ensures a procedure is in place to verify candidate identity including private candidates
- Ensures invigilators are aware of the procedure
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms according to JCQ and awarding body requirements (and ensures candidates with access arrangements are identified on the seating plan and invigilators are informed of those candidates with access arrangements and made aware of the access arrangements(s) awarded.

Invigilators

- Follow the procedure for verifying candidate identity provided by the EO
- Seat candidates in exam rooms as instructed by the EO/on the seating plan

Security of Exam Materials

Exams Officer

- Confirms appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that confidential materials are only handed to those authorised by the head of centre.
- Exam materials being moved between the secure storage facility and the exam rooms at placed in a secure tamper proof pouch with a security seal attached
- Ensures only persons authorised by the head of centre and the exams officer are allowed access to the centre's secure storage facility as one of the two to six key holders
- Has a process in place to demonstrate the receipt, secure movement and secure storage of confidential exam materials within the Caistor Grammar School
- Ensures a log is kept at the initial point of delivery recording confidential materials received and signed for by authorised staff within Caistor Grammar School 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
- 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 an area that can be controlled to prevent unauthorised personnel accessing live assessment materials and ensuring only authorised members of centre staff have access to electronic question papers)

Reception Staff

- Follow the process to log confidential materials delivered to/received by Caistor Grammar School to the point materials are issued to authorised staff for transferal to the secure storage facility

Teaching Staff

- Adhere to the process to record the secure movement of confidential materials taken from or returned to secure storage throughout the time the material is confidential

Overnight supervision arrangements

In the case of exam clashes where more than the recommended hours of exams per day is exceeded, as per JCQ guidelines, discussions will be held with the student and parents as to how the exam times can be managed. These will be discussed and resolved on an individual basis. However, the JCQ statement that overnight supervision is a “last resort” is primary in all discussions.

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 8.10). 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. The JCQ Overnight Supervision and Overnight Supervision Declaration

forms must be completed before the overnight supervision is to commence. The JCQ Overnight Supervision form is completed online using the Centre Admin Portal (CAP). The JCQ Overnight Supervision Declaration form is downloaded from the Centre Admin Portal (CAP) for signing by the candidate, the supervisor and the head of centre. [ICE 8]

Timetabling and Rooming

Exams Officer

- Produces a master Caistor Grammar School exam timetable for each exam series
- Identifies and resolves candidate exam timetable clashes according to the regulations (only applying overnight supervision arrangements as a last resort, see above, once all other options have been exhausted and according to Caistor Grammar School policy). Arranges lunchtime clash supervision ensuring there is an invigilator and room available away from any potential leak of exam details
- 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

SEnCo

- Liaises with the EO regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with other relevant Caistor Grammar School 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

Transferred Candidate Arrangements

Exams Officer

- Liaises with the host or entering centre, as required
- Processes requests for *Transferred Candidate arrangements* through CAP to the awarding body deadline (or through the awarding body where a qualification may sit outside the scope of CAP)
- Where relevant (for an internal candidate) informs the candidate of the arrangements that have been made for their transferred candidate arrangements

Internal Exams

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

Exams Officer / SLT

- Prepares for the conduct of internal exams under external conditions
- Provides a Caistor Grammar School exam timetable of subjects and rooms
- Provides seating plans for exam rooms
- Ensures the exam rooms are appropriate conditions for the students in line with JCQ guidelines in relation to heat, lighting, noise disturbance
- Coordinates with the Site Team for rooms to be prepared
- Requests internal exam papers from teaching staff
- Arranges invigilation in conjunction with Cover Supervisor
- SLT will arrange internal exams that timetable clash with external exam series
- Support the SENCo in making appropriate arrangements for access arrangement candidates
- Documents absent students, keeps papers for mop up of missed papers. Arranges time for mop up exams during the timetabled sessions
- Before returning papers to the Head of Department checks papers against the register to ensure all papers sat have been collated and ready to return; this attendance record goes to the Head of Department so they have a record of which papers they have received
- Coordinates with SLT in the event of adverse weather, to make the appropriate arrangements to complete the whole timetable. If the room is too cold, move students to an alternative room. If school closed due to snow, the day(s) will be moved to the end of the week

SEnCo

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

Head of Department

- Provide exam papers and materials to the EO ahead of the start of the timetabled exams
- Mock papers are retained and unaltered until after the post results services deadline, students may have photocopies of their papers but not the original. This is part of the CGS resilience in accordance with JCQ regulations

Exam time: roles and responsibilities

Access Arrangements

Exams Officer

- Provides the equipment needed to allow all access arrangements to be met
- 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
 - informs the SENCo of additional/emergency access arrangements so that records can be updated for future reference

Candidate absence policy

Students and parents are advised to contact the school as soon as they are aware a candidate will be absent for an exam. Reception staff monitor phone messages and school emails as does the exams officer from 8am each day. Any messages from parents, regarding absence, are followed up with a phone call from either the EO or a member of the SLT with full explanation given as to the ramifications of missing an exam and how the exam board will deal with it. Attendance registers are taken in advance of exams starting. Should other candidates be absent, the EO is immediately informed via the 2-way radio. The EO or a member of the SLT will then follow up with a phone call home. Phone numbers used are those registered with the school on Bromcom. It is the parents / carers responsibility to ensure that contact details are updated and current.

Advice: 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]

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

Candidates

- Are charged relevant entry fees for unauthorised absence from exams

Candidate behaviour

See *Irregularities* below.

Candidate belongings

See *Unauthorised materials* below.

Candidate late arrival

Exams Officer

- Advises candidates that they should arrive no later than 10 minutes before the start of the exam; ideally they should arrive 30 minutes before so that they can be led into the exam room 10 minutes before.
- Candidates who arrive after the cohort has been let into the exam room, they should go directly to the school office and wait for the EO. They will be given the invigilation notices and be seated and allowed their full exam time
- 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* through 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

Candidates who arrive more than 30 minutes after the start of the exam are deemed to be very late, as per JCQ guidelines. The EO / SLT will see the candidate before they enter the exam room to discuss the reasons behind this. Caistor Grammar School will aim to ensure that very late students are given an opportunity to sit the exam with the full allocated exam time. However, depending upon invigilator and room availability this may not be possible. Exam boards will be notified of very late arrival candidates and candidates are advised their scripts may not be marked by the exam boards.

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 late, and is permitted by the centre to sit the examination, must be allowed the full time for the examination. [ICE21]

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 exam 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 ensure the download of papers is completed in accordance with and in the time frame stated in JCQ regulations
- Ensures care is taken to that the correct question paper packets are opened by ensuring a member of centre staff, additional to the person removing the papers from secure storage, e.g. an invigilator, checks the day, date, time, subject, unit/component and tier of entry, if appropriate, immediately before a question paper packet is opened
- Ensures this additional/second check is recorded
- Unused question papers must not be released to any individual until 24 hours after the awarding body's published finishing time for the examination. Where a candidate is sitting an examination scheduled for the afternoon session on the following morning under an overnight supervision arrangement,

unused question papers for that examination must not be released to any individual until the candidate has completed that examination (ICE 31)

Exam Rooms

Head of Centre

- 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 approved Caistor Grammar School staff (who have not taught the subject being examined) are present in exam rooms to perform permitted tasks in accordance with ICE section 17
- Ensures Caistor Grammar Schools policy relating to food and drink that may be allowed in exam rooms is clearly communicated to candidates
- Ensures Caistor Grammar Schools policy on candidates leaving the exam room temporarily is clearly communicated to candidates

Food and drink in exam rooms policy

All students are allowed to take a clear bottle of water into the exams. The bottle must be clear with no writing or labels. Food is only allowed by pre-arrangement and only as a result of a medical condition. All food must be removed from its original wrapping and put into a clear bag.

Food and drink may be allowed in the examination room at the discretion of the head of centre. To enable invigilators to check these items quickly and efficiently: • food brought into the examination room by the candidate must be free of packaging and in a transparent container; • drink bottles must be transparent with all labels removed, which would include transparent, reusable plastic bottles. [ICE 18]

Policy on candidates leaving the exam room temporarily

Candidates may leave the examination room for a toilet break; however they must be accompanied by an invigilator. If only one invigilator in the room, then they will call for assistance from the EO using the 2-way radio provided in each exam room or via whatsapp. An exam room will never be left below the allowed invigilator ratio. Jackets and cardigans will be handed to the invigilator before entering the toilets, pockets will be shown to be empty before and after using the toilet. No extra time will be added back to the candidates exam for leaving the room, unless there is a pre-agreed medical reason why a candidate may need to frequently leave, or if the candidate needs to leave during the exam for a medical reason. Candidates who leave without an invigilator will not be allowed back into the exam room.

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. 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
- Ensures invigilators understand they must be vigilant and remain aware of incidents or emerging situations, looking out for malpractice or candidates who may be in distress, recording any incidents or issues on the exam room incident log
- Ensures invigilators understand how to deal with candidates who may need to leave the exam room temporarily and how this should be recorded on the exam room incident log
- Provides authorised exam materials which candidates are not expected to provide themselves
- Ensures invigilators and candidates are aware of the emergency evacuation procedure
- Ensures invigilators are aware of arrangements in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance if an exam room is evacuated

Senior Leaders

- Ensure a documented emergency evacuation procedure for exam rooms is in place
- Ensure arrangements are in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance if an exam room is evacuated

Site Staff

- Ensure exam rooms are available and set up as requested by the EO
- Ensure Caistor Grammar School grounds or maintenance work does not disturb exam candidates in exam rooms
- Ensure fire alarm testing does not take place during exam sessions

Invigilators

- Conduct exams in every exam room according to JCQ *Instructions for conducting examinations* and/or awarding body requirements and as instructed by Caistor Grammar School in training/update and briefing sessions

Candidates

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

Emergency evacuation policy

The emergency evacuation policy is located at Appendix G.

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

A suggested emergency evacuation procedure for centres to use may be found on the JCQ website: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice--instructions-for-conducting-examinations/centre>

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.

[ICE25]

Managing behaviour in exam rooms procedure

Where a candidate is being disruptive, the invigilator will warn the candidate that he/she may be removed from the examination room.

The candidate will 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.[ICE24]

Irregularities

Head of Centre

- Ensures, as required by an awarding body any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration before, during or after examinations/assessments (by Caistor Grammar School staff, candidates, invigilators) are investigated and reported to the awarding body **immediately**, by completing the appropriate documentation

Senior Leaders

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

Exams Officer

- Provides an exam room incident log in all exam rooms for recording any incidents or irregularities
- Actions any required follow-up and reports to awarding bodies as soon as practically possible after the exam has taken place
- Checks incident logs

Invigilators

- Record any incidents or irregularities on the exam room incident log (for example, late/very late arrival, candidate or Caistor Grammar School 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 policy

Senior Leaders and Head of Section

- Provide signed evidence to support eligible applications for special consideration

Exams Officer

- Processes eligible applications for special consideration to awarding bodies
- Gathers evidence which may need to be provided by other staff in Caistor Grammar School or candidates
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to the external deadline

Candidates

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

The Special Consideration policy is located at Appendix H.

Arrangements for unauthorised materials taken into the exam room

All candidates have access to secure storage in school, personal lockers or room C3 which will be locked during the exam session. All unrequired items, including mobile phones should be stored there. Should unauthorised items be brought into the exam hall then they shall be removed by the invigilators and given to the EO to be kept in the Exams Office until the end of the exam session. All mobile phones must be switched off. Caistor Grammar School takes no responsibility for those items.

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.

Ideally, all unauthorised items are left outside of the examination room; • any pencil cases taken into the examination room must be see-through; • 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 will normally be at the front of the examination room or a similar arrangement that enables the invigilator to control access to the items

Following the invigilator's announcement any mobile phones or other unauthorised items in the candidates' possession must be handed to the invigilator prior to the examination starting. This also includes watches.

If candidates have access to unauthorised items in the examination room, this may be considered as malpractice. They could be subject to penalties in accordance with the JCQ document Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures, 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026.

[ICE 18]

Invigilators

- Are informed of the arrangements through training

Results and post-results: roles and responsibilities

Managing Results Day(s)

Senior Leaders

- Identify Caistor Grammar School 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 Caistor Grammar School 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

Site staff

- Ensures Caistor Grammar School is open and accessible to staff and candidates, as required for the collection of results

Results day programme

Results will be available in the school from 8am on A level results day and on GCSE results day. Results will be sent electronically via Bromcom Student Portal at 8am to those candidates who previously requested this by emailing the EO. Candidates are expected to collect results at school themselves. If they are not able to, they can nominate someone else, in advance by emailing the EO by the Monday of results week, and ID must be provided by that person on the day. Those candidates who do not attend to collect their results will be sent their results electronically before noon on results day. All requests concerning results must come from the candidate themselves using their school email account. Some teaching staff and SLT will be available to discuss results. The details of post result services, fees and the availability of the Exams Officer to action them will be sent at the end of the summer season to both parents and candidates and then again on results day via email to the candidates.

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
- Ensures that results are not released to the Press or Social Media before the official dates and times of release
- Understands that it is not permitted to withhold provisional result from candidates under any circumstances

Exams Officer

- Informs candidates in advance of when and how results will be released to them for each exam series
- Informs candidates and parents the processes available following receiving their results

- Ensures that Bromcom is embargoed prior to accessing the results
- Accesses results from awarding bodies under restricted release of results, where this is provided by the awarding body
- Provides Head of Centre and SLT broadsheet results and subject component breakdowns on the morning of pre-release
- Resolves any missing or incomplete results with awarding bodies
- Issues statements of results to candidates on results date
- Provides summaries of results for relevant Caistor Grammar School staff on issue of results date

Post-results services

Access to scripts, reviews of results and appeals procedures

On results day, members of the SLT and teaching staff will be available to discuss results with students. After that time and until return to school they are available via email. The Exams Officer will be available by email to book a time to discuss results and to action post result services in person or by telephone. Information regarding these services and fees will be included with exam results.

The centre will have in place **written** procedures for how it will deal with candidates' requests for access to scripts, clerical re-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 prior to the issue of results; ensure that senior members of centre staff are available immediately after the publication of results; ensure that all internal candidates are made aware that all post-results service requests must be made through the centre

The centre will ensure that all private candidates are made aware that requests for access to scripts, clerical re-checks and reviews of marking can be made directly through the relevant awarding body; [GR 5.13]

Relevant centre staff must be fully aware of the post-results process, including the published deadlines for clerical re-checks, reviews of marking and reviews of moderation.

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]

Head of centre

- Ensures an internal appeals procedure is available where candidates disagree with any Caistor Grammar School decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal
- Ensures that senior members of Caistor Grammar School staff are available immediately after the publication of results
- Understands that if Caistor Grammar School has concerns about one of its component/subject cohorts, then requests for reviews of marking should be submitted for all candidates believed to be affected (candidate consent is required as marks and subject grades may be lowered, confirmed or raised)

Exams Officer

- Provides information to candidates (including private candidates) and staff on the services provided by awarding bodies and the fees charged (see also above *Briefing candidates* and *Access to scripts, reviews of results and appeals procedures*), in the form of a letter by email sent to the candidates and parents prior to results at the end of the summer season. (see appendix K)
- Creates payment items for Post-Results Services in consultation with the Finance Department
- Publishes internal deadlines for requesting the services to ensure the external deadlines can be effectively met
- Provides a process to record requests for services and to collect candidate informed consent (**after** the publication of results) and fees where relevant
- Submits requests to awarding bodies to meet the external deadline for the particular service
- Email candidates the confirmation of any review process applied for within 48hrs of receipt of payment
- Tracks requests to conclusion and informs candidates and relevant Caistor Grammar School staff of outcomes
- Updates Caistor Grammar School results information and Bromcom, 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

- Recognises that grades can go down as well as up or remain unchanged and takes this into consideration prior to applying for Post-Results Services
- Meet internal deadlines to request the services
- Provide informed consent and fees, where relevant
- Inform by email the Exams Officer that payment has been sent
- Notifies Exams Officer if they have not received confirmation of their request within 48hrs of payment having been sent
- Provide contact details that will be regularly checked for updates

Analysis of Results

The Assistant Headteacher

- Provides analysis of results to appropriate Caistor Grammar School staff
- Provides results information to external organisations where required in line with any embargoes set
- Undertakes the secondary school and college (key stage 4/16-18) performance tables *June and September checking exercise*

Issue of certificates procedure

A Level certificates will be issued at a celebration evening in late December each year. GCSE certificates will be made available for form tutors to distribute to all year 12s who are at Caistor Grammar School and other Caistor Grammar School students. Remaining students will be emailed on their contact email provided on their statement of entry advised to make an appointment to collect their certificates as soon as possible. Certificates will not be posted out.

Certificates are provided to Caistor Grammar School by awarding bodies after results have been confirmed.

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

The Exams Officer is required to keep all unclaimed certificates for a minimum of 12 months after the date of entry. After that time Caistor Grammar School reserve the right to destroy certificates. Records of destroyed certificates will be kept for 4 years. There is currently no need to destroy any certificates; they are kept securely and an archive log of certificates retained and certificates collected is kept.

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 Caistor Grammar Schools records management policy
- Provides an exams archiving policy that identifies information held, retention period and method of disposal

Exams archiving policy

This is found at Appendix I.

Exam contingency plan 2025/26

Purpose of the plan

This plan examines potential risks and issues that could cause disruption to the exam process. By outlining actions/procedures to be invoked in case of disruption it is intended to mitigate the impact these disruptions have on our exam process at Caistor Grammar School. Alongside internal processes this plan is informed by the Ofqual Exam system contingency plan: England, Wales and Northern Ireland which provides guidance in the publication, 'What schools and colleges and other centres should do if exams or other assessments are seriously disrupted', the JCQ Joint Contingency Plan for the Examination System in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the JCQ document Preparing for disruption to examinations (Effective from 1 September 2023). This plan details how Caistor Grammar School complies with the JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres (section 5.3, Centre management) by having 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 where the head of centre, 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, or on results day, owing to an unforeseen emergency. The potential impact of a cyber-attack should also be considered.

National Centre Number Register and other information requirements

The head of centre will also ensure that as a contingency to enable the prompt handling of urgent issues only, responds to the awarding bodies' request for information regarding the contact details of a senior member of staff (which might include a personal mobile number and/or email address). This will ensure that any urgent matters which might adversely affect candidates which arise outside of term time, and which potentially put qualification awards at risk, can be addressed by awarding bodies with the support of that member of staff. The head of centre should ensure that this member of staff has the necessary authority to mobilise resources to provide this support, which might include resolving issues within the centre itself. (GR 5.3) In case of any issues needing EO assistance outside of school term, head of centre has personal contact details.

Possible causes of disruption to the exam process

1. Exams officer extended absence at a critical stage of the exam cycle

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Key tasks required in the management and administration of the exam cycle not undertaken including:

Planning

- annual data collection exercise not undertaken to collate information on qualifications and awarding body specifications being delivered
- annual exams plan not produced identifying essential key tasks, key dates and deadlines
- sufficient invigilators not recruited

Entries

- awarding bodies not being informed of early/estimated entries which prompts release of early information required by teaching staff
- candidates not being entered with awarding bodies for external exams/assessment
- awarding body entry deadlines missed or late or other penalty fees being incurred

Pre-exams

- invigilators not trained or updated on changes to instructions for conducting exams
- exam timetabling, rooming allocation; and invigilation schedules not prepared
- candidates not briefed on exam timetables and awarding body information for candidates confidential exam/assessment materials and candidates' work not stored under required secure conditions
- internal assessment marks and samples of candidates' work not submitted to awarding bodies/external moderators

Exam time

- exams/assessments not taken under the conditions prescribed by awarding bodies
- required reports/requests not submitted to awarding bodies during exam/assessment periods, for example very late arrival, suspected malpractice, special consideration
- candidates' scripts not dispatched as required for marking to awarding bodies Results and post-results
- access to examination results affecting the distribution of results to candidates
- the facilitation of post-results services

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- Chris Frost, Assistant Head Teacher, he can fulfil all parts of the role as required. He currently line manages the Exam Officer. Mr Marcus Croft, Assistant Head is also familiar with the exams process and has access to the secure exam room.
- Staff are able to access exam systems and school network from home so can work remotely if necessary.
- Located in the EO office, is the centre specific EO Handbook with step-by-step details for each part of the exam cycle, ensuring that CGS are able to continue the exam cycle in the absence of the EO

2. SENCo extended absence at a critical stage of the exam cycle

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Key tasks required in the management and administration of the access arrangements process within the exam cycle not undertaken including:

Planning

- candidates not tested/assessed to identify potential access arrangement requirements
- centre fails to recognise its duties towards disabled candidates as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010
- evidence of need and evidence to support normal way of working not collated

Pre-exams

- approval for access arrangements not applied for to the awarding body
- centre-delegated arrangements not put in place
- modified paper requirements not identified in a timely manner to enable ordering to meet external deadline
- staff (facilitators) providing support to access arrangement candidates not allocated and trained

Exam time

- access arrangement candidate support not arranged for exam rooms

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- Mr Marcus Croft, Assistant Head, has fulfilled the role of SENCO previously. He line manages the SENCO and is aware of what tasks have to be completed within the SENCO/Exams cycle.
- the current SEN team have the knowledge needed to complete the tasks required for the Exam cycle.

3. Teaching staff extended absence at a critical stage of the exam cycle

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Key tasks not undertaken including:

- Early/estimated entry information not provided to the exams officer on time; resulting in pre-release information not being received
- Final entry information not provided to the exams officer on time; resulting in candidates not being entered for exams/assessments or being entered late/late or other penalty fees being charged by awarding bodies
- Non-examination assessment tasks not set/issued/taken by candidates as scheduled
- Candidates not being informed of centre assessed marks before marks are submitted to the awarding body and therefore not being able to consider appealing internal assessment decisions and requesting a review of the centre's marking
- Internal assessment marks and candidates' work not provided to meet awarding body submission deadlines

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- Should an extended absence be anticipated, the SLT will ensure other departmental staff are able to fulfil the required role. In single staff departments, this will be covered by SLT staff in conjunction with external assistance from suitably qualified teaching staff.
- Online teaching has been facilitated across all subjects and tear groups so that work can still be made available and marked.
- EO will data collect in the September of the exam year

4. Invigilators - lack of appropriately trained invigilators or invigilator absence

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Failure to recruit and train sufficient invigilators to conduct exams
- Invigilator shortage on peak exam days
- Invigilator absence on the day of an exam

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- Invigilators are given the Summer Season dates in the January of the exam cycle, and availability requested.
- Availability calendar kept throughout the season and regularly updated.
- There are trained invigilating staff in school who could be redirected to cover invigilating at short notice.

- In person training given in the March for all new and current invigilators; Online training to be completed prior to the start of the season.
- Invigilator Handbook given to all to refer to throughout the season.
- EO is fully trained as an invigilator and maintains current training each year.
- SLT can be called upon in extreme circumstances, a list of what subjects they have taught/do teach to current exam cohorts kept by EO to assess appropriateness of assignments.

5. Exam rooms - lack of appropriate rooms or main venue(s) unavailable at short notice

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Pre-Exams

- mock exams are disrupted by school closures due to the weather (ie snow day)

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- in the event of a 'snow day' the day(s) missed will be moved to the end of the mock timetable.

Exam Time

- Exams officer unable to identify sufficient/appropriate rooms during exams timetable planning
- Insufficient rooms available on peak exam days
- Main exam venues unavailable due to an unexpected incident at exam time

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- Exam room planning commences as soon as Exam Boards final timetables are issued. (December/January before the summer season)
- Classrooms can be repurposed at short notice and classes held elsewhere, co-ordination of this through Chris Frost and Darren Hargreaves and communicated to candidates through invigilators and notices posted at the sign-in point in reception.
- Use of local town hall has been agreed if required. There are two rooms which could take the whole cohort and is walking distance away from the Caistor Grammar Schools. Co-ordination of this would be through Chris Frost, site team and reception. Charlie Coulston would communicate this change of venue to the candidates via student email and student portal, these details would also appear on the school website home page.

6. Cyber-attack

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Where a cyber-attack may compromise any aspect of delivery

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- EO has access to a non network laptop and printer to access Bromcom and the Exam Boards using an internet server separate to that of the server at CGS. All aspects of the Exam Cycle can be accessed in this manner.
- Bromcom is accessible on the EO laptop, in the event of a cyber attack. entries, amendments, and results can be done via the individual exam board websites.
- For word processor candidates, the laptops do not require the internet, and the exam laptops have never been part of the CGS network. Printing of student scripts can be done on the non network printer

7. Failure of IT systems

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- IT system failure at final entry deadline
- IT system failure during exams preparation
- IT system failure at results release time
- IT system failure causing no telephone system

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- MIS system is now web based; see cyber attack details for plan in the event of no internet.
- Entries are not made at the final entry deadline, but are made at least 4 weeks in advance, so that if an IT failure, there is still time for it to be repaired and used.
- The exams officer is familiar with manual entry via exam board websites.
- All student exam entry data is downloaded and held separate to Bromcom so it can be used for manual entry and preparation if required
- The MIS is not required in order to issue results. Bromcom data is provided in addition to Exam Board data, not instead of.
- For word processor candidates, the laptops do not require the internet.
- For the downloading of papers from exam boards for printing, and audio files for MFL and music, see contingency in the event of a cyber attack.
- If there is a loss of phone system, EO has mobile phone to be able to contact exam boards, and a radio system to remain in contact with the rest of school (and the invigilators in the event of no internet and thus no whatsapp).

8. Emergency evacuation of the exam room (or centre lockdown)

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Whole centre evacuation (or lockdown) during exam time due to serious incident resulting in exam candidates being unable to start, proceed with or complete their exams

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- Invigilator training covers the eventuality of room evacuation.

- All exam rooms have 2-way radios and or a mobile phone on silent with Whatsapp that can communicate with EO, site team and SLT
- Students are briefed on exam room evacuation
- Each exam room has a designated area of assembly away from the main buildings, should evacuation be required. Newbolt = Grove Court area, Old Hall & Gym = Old Court area
- EO will contact the relevant awarding body as soon as possible and follow its instructions and (after the exam) consider whether any candidate's ability to take the assessment or demonstrate their level of attainment has been materially affected and, if so, apply for special consideration.

9. Disruption of teaching time in the weeks before an exam - centre closed for an extended period

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Centre closed or candidates are unable to attend for an extended period during normal teaching or study supported time, interrupting the provision of normal teaching and learning

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- Where there is disruption to teaching time and students miss teaching and learning, it remains the responsibility of centres to prepare students, as usual, for examinations. Caistor Grammar School has alternative timetables in place ready to teach remotely all subjects and year groups remotely. All students are familiar with accessing Microsoft teams and understand where work is stored and how to access it.
- Caistor Grammar School will ensure that students are provided with the full time necessary to learn and prepare for their course, in accordance with the exam specification.
- Alternative arrangements for teaching and learning away from the main CGS site will be agreed with students and parents in advance. This may be at home using online methods.
- take advice offered by the awarding body regarding alternative arrangements for conducting examinations that may be available
- take advice offered by the awarding body on the options for candidates who have not been able to take scheduled examinations
- advise candidates, where appropriate, of the opportunities to take their exam or assessment at a later date
- This will be communicated to the students via student email and the student portal.

10. Candidates may not be able to take examinations - centre remains open

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Candidates may not be able to attend the examination centre to take examinations as normal

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- CGS will take advice offered by the awarding body on the options for candidates who have not been able to take scheduled examinations
- EO discuss alternative arrangements with the awarding body if a candidate misses an exam or loses their assessment due to an emergency, or other event, outside of the candidate's control
- identify whether the exam or timetabled assessment can be sat at an alternative venue, in agreement with the relevant awarding body, ensuring the secure transportation of questions papers or assessment materials to the alternative venue
- communicate with candidates (and where appropriate, parents/carers) any changes to the exam or assessment timetable or to the venue
- consider whether any candidates' ability to take the assessment or demonstrate their level of attainment has been materially affected and, if so, apply for special consideration

11. Centre may not be able to open as normal during the examination period

(including in the event of the centre being unavailable for examinations owing to an unforeseen emergency)

- Centre may not be able to open as normal for scheduled examinations

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- CGS will take advice, or follow instructions, from relevant local or national agencies in deciding whether the centre is able to open
- contact the relevant awarding body as soon as possible and follow its instructions (This could include implementing alternative arrangements for the conducting of examinations and notifying the JCQ Centre Inspection Service of an alternative site arrangement by submitting the JCQ Alternative Site form online, using the Centre Admin Portal (CAP).)
- contact the relevant awarding body as soon as possible and follow its instructions
- discuss alternative arrangements with the awarding body if the exam or assessment cannot take place
- follow guidance provided by the awarding body on the conduct of examinations in such circumstances
- communicate with candidates (and where appropriate, parents/carers) any changes to the exam or assessment timetable or to the venue
- Alternative venue details: Caistor Town Hall
High Street, Caistor, LN7 6TJ
01472 851212; 01472 902605
- Communication details: EO will co-ordinate with SLT and site team as well as Head of yr11 and 6th Form via phone. Details will be given to Charlie Coulston, Cheri Jollands and Sam Newton who will deliver these details to students and parents/carers via email, MCAS and student portal. EO and SLT will consider whether any candidates' ability to take the assessment or demonstrate their level of attainment has been materially affected and, if so, apply for special consideration

12. Disruption in the distribution of examination papers

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Disruption to the distribution of examination papers to the centre in advance of examinations

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- Exams Officer monitors all receipt of exam materials.
- If exam board provided deadlines are missed, the EO will contact the board for guidance.
- Online secure materials access is limited to the EO and line manager only.
- Online secure scripts are only printed on the day required, in the 60 minute window prior to the official start time – 08.00 and 12.30, unless exam board agrees an alternative.
- CGS will follow guidance provided by the awarding body on the conduct of examinations in such circumstances and understand that as a last resort, and in close collaboration with centres and regulators, awarding organisations will consider scheduling of the examination on an alternative date. CGS will communicate with candidates (and where appropriate, parents/carers) any changes to the exam or assessment timetable or to the venue.
- EO ensures that all candidates and parents/carers are aware of the contingency days and that they need to remain available.

13. Disruption to transporting completed examination scripts

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Delay in normal collection arrangements for completed examination scripts/assessment evidence

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- Caistor Grammar School uses the Parcel Force Yellow Label Service for all its script collection services. Should a collection not be made the scripts will be locked in secure storage until the next day. If Parcel Force are unable to make a collection, the local Post office is 300m away (4 minute walk), is open till 6pm each day and will take papers for delivery. EO will take them to the post office and get proof of postage. It has been agreed that if the papers go to the Post Office after the Parcel Force collection i.e., the Friday before half term, they will be secured in the locked area of the PO. If a large number of papers need taking, site team will be called on to assist.
- Sample materials to be assessed will be posted at the local Post Office following guidelines issued by the exam boards. EO or SLT member will take them to the post office and get proof of postage.

14. Assessment evidence is not available to be marked

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Large scale damage to or destruction of completed examination scripts/assessment evidence before it can be marked
- Completed examination scripts/assessment evidence does not reach awarding organisations

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- EO delivers to the Exam Boards either digitally or via the Post Office. This is done in advance of the published deadline and can check receipt of NEA by the exam board and/or moderator. Proof of posting is kept until 1 October of that year (the end of review period)
- liaise with the awarding body to determine if candidate marks for affected assessments may be able to be generated based on other appropriate evidence of candidate achievement as defined by the awarding body
- where marks cannot be generated by awarding body, inform candidates they may need to retake the affected assessment in a subsequent assessment series

15. Centre unable to distribute results as normal (including in the event of the centre being unavailable on results day owing to an unforeseen emergency) or facilitate post-results services

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Centre is unable to access or manage the distribution of results to candidates, or to facilitate post-results services

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption listed above

- Make arrangements to access its results at an alternative venue/share facilities with another centre if this is possible, in agreement with the relevant awarding body
- Make arrangements to coordinate access to post-results services from an alternative venue
- Alternative venue details: – see Plan Point 11
- Make arrangements to make post-results requests at an alternative location
- Contact the relevant awarding body if electronic post-results requests are not possible
- Inform candidates of any alternative arrangements in place for the distribution of results and the facilitation of post-results services
- Communication details: - see Plan Point 6, 7 and 11; when the students signed their Statement of Entry they added a personal email address (their own or a parents), in the event of being unable to use the CGS system, EO can still make contact by email outside of their school account.

Further guidance to inform procedures and implement contingency planning

DfE

Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges

- *Cyber Security Standards in schools and colleges*
- *Cyber crime and cyber security: a guide for education providers*
- *DfE Cyber Security Guidance - March 2023*

Ofqual

Ofqual guidance extract taken directly from the Exam system contingency plan: England, Wales and Northern Ireland - What schools and colleges and other centres should do if exams or other assessments are seriously disrupted (last updated 5 October 2023) www.gov.uk/government/publications/exam-system-contingency-plan-england-wales-and-northern-ireland/what-schools-and-colleges-should-do-if-exams-or-other-assessments-are-seriously-disrupted

"This document was updated in October 2023 to include Ofqual's final decisions on long-term resilience arrangements, and the Department for Education (DfE)'s guidance for education settings with confirmed reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC).

In addition to this guidance, you will need to be aware of your specific responsibilities for local and national school preparations and contingencies. You should also follow advice from relevant public health bodies.

Contingency planning

Awarding organisations are required to establish, maintain and comply with an up-to-date detailed written contingency plan, to mitigate any incident they have identified may occur. This includes having communication plans for external parties (Ofqual General Condition of Recognition A6). Schools and colleges should also be prepared for possible disruption to exams and assessments and make sure staff are aware of these plans.

Disruption to assessments or exams

In the absence of any instruction from the relevant awarding organisation, you should make sure that any exam or timetabled assessment takes place if it is possible to hold it. This may mean relocating to alternative premises. You should discuss alternative arrangements with your awarding organisation if:

- *the exam or assessment cannot take place*
- *a student misses an exam or loses their assessment due to an emergency, or other event, outside of the student's control*

You may also wish to see the JCQ's notice to centres on exam contingency plans and JCQ's notice on preparing for disruption to examinations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for qualifications within its scope.

Steps you should take

Exam planning

Review your contingency plans well in advance of each exam or assessment series. Consider how, if the contingency plan is invoked, you will comply with the awarding organisation's requirements.

Schools, colleges and other exam centres must speak to the relevant awarding organisations as soon as possible if they are expecting any disruption that might affect the sitting of exams and assessments.

In the event of disruption

- *Contact the relevant awarding organisation and follow its instructions.*
- *Take advice, or follow instructions, from relevant local or national agencies in deciding whether your centre is able to open.*
- *Identify whether the exam or timetabled assessment can be sat at an alternative venue, in agreement with the relevant awarding organisation, ensuring the secure transportation of questions papers or assessment materials to the alternative venue.*
- *Where accommodation is limited, prioritise students whose progression will be severely delayed if they do not take their exam or timetabled assessment when planned.*
- *In the event of an evacuation during an examination please refer to JCQ's Centre emergency evacuation procedure.*
- *Communicate with students, parents and carers any changes to the exam or assessment timetable or to the venue.*
- *Communicate with any external assessors or relevant third parties regarding any changes to the exam or assessment timetable.*

After the exam

- *Consider whether any students' ability to take the assessment or demonstrate their level of attainment has been materially affected and, if so, apply to the relevant awarding organisation for special consideration.*
- *Advise students, where appropriate, of the opportunities to take their exam or assessment at a later date.*
- *Ensure that scripts are stored under secure conditions.*
- *Return scripts to awarding organisations in line with their instructions. Never make alternative arrangements for the transportation of completed exam scripts, unless told to do so by the awarding organisation.*

Steps the awarding organisation should take

Exam planning

- *Establish and maintain, and at all times comply with, an up-to-date, written contingency plan.*
- *Ensure that the arrangements in place with centres and other third parties enable them to deliver and award qualifications in accordance with their conditions of recognition.*

In the event of disruption

- *Take all reasonable steps to mitigate any adverse effect, in relation to their qualifications, arising from any disruption.*
- *Provide effective guidance to any of their centres delivering qualifications.*
- *Ensure that where an assessment must be completed under specified conditions, students are able to complete the assessment under those conditions (other than where any reasonable adjustments or special considerations require alternative conditions).*

- Promptly notify the relevant regulators about any event which could have an adverse effect on students, standards or public confidence.
- Coordinate its communications with the relevant regulators where the disruption has an impact on multiple centres or a wide range of learners.

After the exam

Consider any requests for special consideration for affected students; for example, those who may have lost their internally assessed work or whose performance in assessments or exams could have been affected by the disruption.

If any students miss an exam or are disadvantaged by the disruption

If some of the students have been adversely affected by the disruption, you should ask the awarding organisation about applying for special consideration.

Decisions about special consideration, when it is or is not appropriate, is for each awarding organisation to make. Their decisions might be different for different qualifications and for different subjects, depending on their specific policies.

See also JCO's guidance on special consideration

Wider communications

The regulators, Ofqual in England, Qualifications Wales in Wales and CCEA Regulation in Northern Ireland, will share timely and accurate information, as required, with awarding organisations, government departments and other stakeholders.

The DfE in England, the DfE in Northern Ireland, and the Welsh Government will inform the relevant government ministers as soon as it becomes apparent that there will be significant local or national disruption, and ensure that they are kept updated until the matter is resolved.

Awarding organisations will alert the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and the Central Applications Office (CAO) about any impact of the disruption on their deadlines and liaise regarding student progression to further and higher education.

Awarding organisations will alert relevant professional bodies or employer groups if the impact of disruption particularly affects them.

Widespread national disruption to the taking of examinations or assessments

As education is devolved, in the event of any widespread sustained national disruption to examinations or assessments, national government departments will communicate with regulators, awarding organisations and centres prior to a public announcement. Regulators will provide advice to government departments on implications for examinations and assessments, including exam timetables.

In September 2023, Ofqual and the DfE published joint consultation decisions on long-term resilience arrangements. As in 2023, Ofqual has provided guidance on collecting evidence of student performance to ensure resilience in the qualifications system for students entering GCSEs, AS and A levels, the Advanced Extension Award and Project qualifications. For VTQs and other qualifications used alongside or instead of GCSEs, AS and A levels, awarding organisations will provide guidance where needed and will contact schools and colleges with more information.

In December 2022, Qualifications Wales published guidance for contingency assessment arrangements for GCSEs, AS and A levels and Skills Challenge Certificates in the event that a national decision is made to cancel exams. This guidance is still relevant for the current academic year.

The DfE has updated its guidance on handling strike action in schools in England in light of the industrial action in 2023. The guidance recommends schools should prioritise the running of examinations and assessments on any strike days, and should review their contingency plans to make this happen. Schools, colleges and other exam centres must speak to the relevant awarding organisations if they are expecting any disruption that might affect the sitting of exams and assessments.

The DfE has also issued guidance for education settings with confirmed reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in their buildings. It includes the need for contingencies for possible disruption to examinations and links to the existing emergency planning guidance.

We will update this page as necessary, with any further relevant links, should national disruption occur.

General contingency guidance

- emergency planning and response for education, childcare and children's social care settings from the DfE in England
- handling strike action in schools from the DfE in England
- school organisation: local-authority-maintained schools from the DfE in England
- reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete: guidance for education settings with confirmed RAAC from the DfE in England
- exceptional closure days from the Department of Education in Northern Ireland
- checklist - exceptional closure of schools from the Department of Education in Northern Ireland
- school terms and school closures from NI Direct
- opening schools as well as childcare and play settings in extreme bad weather and extreme hot weather – guidance for schools from the Welsh Government
- emergency planning and response guidance for education and childcare settings- guidance for schools and

education settings from the Welsh Government

- protective security and preparedness for education settings from the DfE
- police guidance from National Counter Terrorism Security Office and partners on preparing for threats
- cyber security guidance for schools and colleges from the National Cyber Security Centre"

JCQ

JCQ guidance taken directly from Instructions for conducting examinations 2023-2024 section 15,

Contingency planning

"15.1 The qualification regulators, awarding bodies and government departments responsible for education have prepared and agreed information for schools and colleges in the event of examinations being seriously disrupted. This jointly agreed information will ensure consistency of response in the event of major disruption to the examinations system affecting significant numbers of candidates.

Further information may be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/exam-system-contingency-plan-englandwales-and-northern-ireland

15.2 In addition, awarding bodies have their own well-established contingency plans in place to respond to disruptions. It is important that exams officers who are facing disruption liaise directly with the relevant awarding body/bodies.

15.3 All centres must have 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 where the head of centre, 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.

15.4 In the event that the head of centre decides the centre cannot be opened for scheduled examinations, the relevant awarding body must be informed as soon as possible. Awarding bodies will be able to offer advice regarding the alternative arrangements for conducting examinations that may be available and the options for candidates who have not been able to take scheduled examinations.

15.5 The awarding bodies will designate 'contingency sessions' for examinations, summer 2024. This is consistent with the qualification regulators' document *Exam system contingency plan: England, Wales and Northern Ireland* -www.gov.uk/government/publications/exam-system-contingency-plan-england-wales-and-northern-ireland

The designation of 'contingency sessions' within the common examination timetable is in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations. It is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for examinations.

In the event that there is national disruption to a day of examinations in summer 2024, the awarding bodies will liaise with the qualification regulators and government departments to agree the most appropriate option for managing the impact. As a last resort the affected examinations will be rescheduled. Although every effort would be taken to keep the impact to a minimum, it is possible that there could be more than one timetable date affected following the disruption, up to and including the last contingency day. Centres will be alerted if it was agreed to reschedule the examinations and the affected candidates will be expected to make themselves available in such circumstances. The decision regarding the re-scheduling of examinations will always rest with the awarding body. The centre must conduct the examination on the scheduled date unless instructed to do otherwise by the awarding body.

Where candidates choose not to be available for the rescheduled examination(s) for reasons other than those traditionally covered by special consideration, they will not be eligible for enhanced grading arrangements. Centres must therefore ensure candidates and parents are aware of the contingency arrangements so that they may take them into account when making their plans for the summer. However, the awarding bodies will not insist upon candidates being available throughout the entire timetable period as a matter of course."

Links to other JCQ documentation

[JCQ Joint Contingency Plan](#)

[JCQ Preparing for disruption to examinations](#)

[JCQ Notice to Centres - exam contingency plan](#)

[General Regulations for Approved Centres](#)

[Guidance notes on alternative site arrangements](#)

[Guidance notes for transferred candidates](#)

Instructions for conducting examinations

A guide to the special consideration process

Guidance for centres on cyber security (Effective from November 2023)

Information for centres affected by RAAC – the delivery of non-examination assessments and the special consideration process

GOV.UK

Emergency planning and response: Exam and assessment disruption

Dispatch of exam scripts guide: Ensuring the service runs smoothly; Contingency planning

Wales

School closures: examinations

Opening schools in extremely bad weather and extreme hot weather

Northern Ireland

Exceptional closure days

Checklist - exceptional closure of schools

National Cyber Security Centre

The NCSC's free Web Check and Mail Check services can help protect schools from cyber-attacks. Two NCSC cyber security services, which are already helping thousands of organisations to protect their websites and email servers from cyber-attacks, are now available to all UK schools. Both tools are available free of charge, are quick to set up, and thereafter run automatically. More information is available from the NCSC website.

The Department for Education has been asking centres to review National Cyber Security Centre advice following increasing number of cyber-attacks involving ransomware infections. The NCSC information supports centres in cyber security preparedness and mitigation work.

Ransomware attacks continue and the Department is reminding centres to review the NCSC advice and to take precautions. This includes ensuring that you have backups in place for your key services and data. For ease of reference, the Department has highlighted key links relating to the NCSC cyber security guidance below:

- *Further ransomware attacks on UK education by cyber criminals*
- *Ransomware advice and guidance for your IT teams to implement*
- *Offline backups in an online world*
- *Backing up your data*
- *Practical resources to help schools improve their cyber security*
- *Building Resilience: Ransomware, the risk to schools and ways to prevent it*
- *School staff offered training to help shore up cyber defences*

**Exam Internal Appeals
Procedures
2025/2026**

1. Appeals against internal assessment decisions (Caistor Grammar School / centre assessed marks)

Certain GCSE, GCE and other qualifications contain components of non-examination assessment (or units of coursework) which are internally assessed (marked) by Caistor Grammar School and internally standardised. The marks awarded (the internal assessment decisions) which contribute to the final grade of the qualification are then submitted by the deadline set by the awarding body for external moderation.

This procedure confirms Caistor Grammar Schools compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres 2025-2026 (section 5.7) it that the centre will:

- *have in place and be 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*
- *before submitting marks to the awarding body, inform candidates of their centre-assessed marks and allow a candidate to request a review of the centre's marking; (see <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessments/>)*

Deadlines for the submission of marks

Date	Qualification	Details	Exam series
15 May 2026	GCSE	Final date for submission of NEA, MFL Speaking, English Speaking (AQA, Pearson)	Summer-26
15 May 2026	GCE	Final date for submission of NEA, MFL Speaking, English Speaking (AQA, OCR, Pearson)	Summer-26

Caistor Grammar School is committed to ensuring that whenever its staff mark candidates' work this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the awarding body's specification and subject-specific associated documents.

Caistor Grammar School ensures that all centre staff follow a robust *Non-Examination Assessment policy* (for the management of GCE and GCSE non-examination assessments). This policy details all procedures relating to non-examination assessments for GCE, GCSE and Project qualifications including the marking and quality assurance processes which relevant teaching staff are required to follow.

Candidates' work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skill, and who have been trained in this activity. Caistor Grammar School is committed to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body. Where a number of subject teachers are involved in marking candidates' work, internal moderation and standardisation will ensure consistency of marking.

On being informed of their centre assessed marks, if a candidate believes that the above procedures were not followed in relation to the marking of his/her work, or that the assessor has not properly applied the mark scheme to his/her marking, then he/she may make use of the appeals procedure below to consider whether to request a review of the centre's marking.

For candidates taking Art or PE GCE or GCSE, the appeals process works differently. These subjects have an external moderator who will visit the centre to review the work of the candidates and the marks given. If a student wishes to be part of the moderators sample and is not, they request this using the internal appeals process as laid out in this policy. Their request must be supported with justification of how the mark scheme has not been applied, as set out below. All deadlines must be met.

Caistor Grammar School will

1. ensure that candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks so that they may request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body.
2. inform candidates that they will need to explain on what grounds they wish to request a review of an internally assessed mark as a review will only focus on the quality of their work in meeting the published assessment criteria
3. inform candidates that they may request copies of materials (for example, as a minimum, a copy their marked assessment material (work) and the mark scheme or assessment criteria plus additional materials which may vary from subject to subject) to assist them in considering whether to request a review of the centre's marking of the assessment.
4. having received a request for copies of materials, promptly make them available to the candidate (or for some marked assessment materials, such as artwork and recordings, inform the candidate that these will be shared under supervised conditions).
5. inform candidates they will not be allowed access to original assessment material unless supervised
6. provide candidates 2 working days in order to allow them to review copies of materials and reach a decision, informing candidates that if their decision is to request a review, they will need to explain what they believe the issue to be
7. provide a clear deadline for candidates to submit a request for a review of the centre's marking. Requests will not be accepted after this deadline. Requests must be made in writing within 2 school working days of receiving copies of the requested materials by completing the **internal appeals form** available from the Exams Officer and returned to her.
8. allow sufficient time for the review to be carried out, to make any necessary changes to marks and to inform the candidate of the outcome, all before the awarding body's deadline.
9. ensure that the review of marking is carried out by an assessor who has appropriate competence, has had no previous involvement in the assessment of that candidate and has no personal interest in the review.
10. instruct the reviewer to ensure that the candidate's mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre.
11. inform the candidate in writing of the outcome of the review of the centre's marking.

The outcome of the review of the centre's marking will be made known to the head of centre. Who will have the final decision if there is any disagreement on the mark to be submitted to the awarding body. A written record of the review will be kept and made available to the awarding body upon request.

The awarding body will be informed if the centre does not accept the outcome of a review.

The moderation process carried out by the awarding bodies may result in a mark change, either upwards or downwards, even after an internal review. The internal review process is in place to ensure consistency of marking within the centre, whereas moderation by the awarding body ensures that centre marking is line with national standards. The mark submitted to the awarding body is subject to change and should therefore be considered provisional. The Head of Centre has final approval on marks submitted to the awarding bodies.

2. Appeals against the centre's decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal

This procedure confirms caistor Grammar School compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres 2025-2026 (section 5.13) that the centre will:

- *have in place **written** procedures for how it will deal with candidates' requests for access to scripts, clerical re-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 prior to the issue of results;*

Following the issue of results, awarding bodies make post-results services available. Full details of these services, internal deadlines for requesting a service and fees charged are provided by the exams officer with exam results on results day.

Candidates are also informed of the arrangements for post-results services and the availability of senior members of centre staff immediately after the publication of results, **before** they sit any exams by year group assemblies and exam documentation emailed to all students.

If the centre or a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) has a concern and believes a result may not be accurate, post-results services may be considered. All post result services are to be paid for by the student / parents. They can only be requested by the student, and must be requested in writing, as marks can go down as well as up.

The JCQ post-results services currently available are detailed below.

Reviews of Results (RoRs):

- Service 1 (Clerical re-check)
 - This is the only service that can be requested for objective tests (multiple choice tests)
- Service 2 (Review of marking)
- Priority Service 2 (Review of marking)
 - This service is only available for externally assessed components of GCE A-level specifications (an individual awarding body may also offer this priority service for other qualifications)
- Service 3 (Review of moderation)
 - This service is not available to an individual candidate

Access to Scripts (ATS):

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

Where a concern is expressed that a particular result may not be accurate, the centre will look at the marks awarded for each component part of the qualification alongside any mark schemes, relevant result reports, grade boundary information etc. when made available by the awarding body to determine if the centre supports any concerns.

For written components that contributed to the final result, the centre will:

1. Where a place a university or college is at risk, consider supporting a request for a Priority Service 2 review of marking
2. In all other instances, consider accessing the script by:
 - a) (Where the service is made available by the awarding body) requesting a priority copy of the candidate's script to support a review of marking by the awarding body deadline or
 - b) (Where the option is made available by the awarding body) viewing the candidate's marked script online to consider if requesting a review of marking is appropriate
3. Collect informed written consent/permission from the candidate to access his/her script
4. On access to the script, consider if it is felt that the agreed mark scheme has been applied correctly in the original marking and if the centre considers there are any errors in the marking
5. Support a request for the appropriate RoR service (clerical re-check or review of marking) if any error is identified]
6. Collect informed written consent from the candidate to request the RoR service before the request is submitted
7. Where relevant, advise an affected candidate to inform any third party (such as a university or college) that a review of marking has been submitted to an awarding body]

Written candidate consent (informed consent via candidate email is acceptable) is required in all cases before a request for a RoR service 1 or 2 (including priority service 2) is submitted to the awarding body. Consent is required to confirm the candidate understands that the final subject grade and/or mark awarded following a clerical re-check or a review of marking, and any subsequent appeal, may be lower than, higher than, or the same as the result which was originally awarded. Candidate consent must only be collected after the publication of results.

For any moderated components that contributed to the final result, the centre will:

- Confirm that a review of moderation cannot be undertaken on the work of an individual candidate or the work of candidates not in the original sample submitted for moderation
- Consult the moderator's report/feedback to identify any issues raised
- Determine if the centre's internally assessed marks have been accepted without change by the awarding body – if this is the case, a RoR service 3 (Review of moderation) will not be available
- Determine if there are any grounds to submit a request for a review of moderation for the work of all candidates in the original sample]

Where a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking or a review of moderation, the centre will:

- For a review of marking (RoR priority service 2), advise the candidate he/she may request the review by providing informed written consent (and the required fee) for this service to the centre by the deadline set by the centre
- For a review of marking (RoR service 1 or 2), first advise the candidate to access a copy of his/her script to support a review of marking by providing written permission for the centre to access the script (and any required fee) for this service for the centre to submit this request
- After accessing the script to consider the marking, inform the candidate that if a request for a review of marking (RoR service 1 or 2) is required, this must be submitted by the deadline set by the centre by providing informed written consent (and the required fee) for this service for the centre to submit this request
- Inform the candidate that a review of moderation (RoR service 3) cannot be requested for the work of an individual candidate or the work of a candidate not in the original sample]

Following the RoR outcome, an external appeals process is available if the head of centre remains dissatisfied with the outcome and believes there are grounds for appeal. The JCQ publications **Post-Results Services** and **JCQ Appeals Booklet** (A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes) will be consulted to determine the acceptable grounds for a preliminary appeal.

Where the head of centre is satisfied after receiving the RoR outcome, but the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) believes there are grounds for a preliminary appeal to the awarding body, an internal appeal may be made to the head of centre. Following this, the head of centre's decision as to whether to proceed with a preliminary appeal will be based upon the acceptable grounds as detailed in the **JCQ Appeals Booklet**. Candidates or parents/carers are not permitted to make direct representations to an awarding body.

The **internal appeals form** should be completed and submitted to the centre within 10 calendar days of the notification of the outcome of the RoR. Subject to the head of centre's decision, this will allow the centre to process the preliminary appeal and submit to the awarding body within the required **30 calendar days** of receiving the outcome of the review of results process. Awarding body fees which may be charged for the preliminary appeal must be paid to the centre by the appellant before the preliminary appeal is submitted to the awarding body (fees are available from the exams officer). If the appeal is upheld by the awarding body, this fee will be refunded by the awarding body and repaid to the appellant by the centre.



CAISTOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Exam Internal appeals form

FOR CGS USE ONLY	
Date received	
Reference No.	

Please tick box to indicate the nature of your appeal and complete all white boxes on the form below

- Appeal against an internal assessment decision and/or request for a review of marking
- Appeal against Caistor Grammar Schools not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or to support an appeal

Name of appellant		Candidate name if different to appellant	
Awarding body		Exam paper code	
Subject		Exam paper title	

Please state the grounds for your appeal below

(If applicable, tick below)

- Where my appeal is against an internal assessment decision I wish to request a review of Caistor Grammar Schools marking
If necessary, continue on an additional page if this form is being completed electronically or overleaf if hard copy being completed

Appellant signature:

Date of signature:

This form must be signed, dated and returned to the exams officer on behalf of the head of centre to the timescale indicated in the relevant appeals procedure

Further guidance to inform and implement appeals procedures

JCQ publications

- *General Regulations for Approved Centres*
 - <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/general-regulations>
- *Post-Results Services*
 - <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/post-results-services>
- *JCQ Appeals Booklet*
 - <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/appeals>
- *Notice to Centres – informing candidates of their centre assessed marks*<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessments>

Ofqual publications

- *GCSE (9 to 1) qualification-level conditions and requirements*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-qualification-level-conditions>
- *GCE qualification-level conditions and requirements*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements>

Equalities Policy (Exams)

2025/26

Purpose of the Policy

This document is provided as an exams-specific supplement to the *centre-wide Equality and Diversity Policy* which details how Caistor Grammar School will:

- *recognise its duties towards disabled candidates, including private candidates, ensuring compliance with all aspects of the Equality Act 2010†, particularly Section 20 (7). This **must** include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, to submit applications for reasonable adjustments through the access arrangements process and to make reasonable adjustments to the services the centre provides to disabled candidates. Where the centre is under a duty to make a reasonable adjustment, the centre **must not** charge a disabled candidate any additional fee in relation to the adjustment or aid;*

JCQ publication General Regulations for Approved Centres 2025-2026 (section 5.4)]

This publication is further referred to in this policy as GR.

This policy details how Caistor Grammar School facilitates access to exams and assessments for disabled candidates, as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, by outlining staff roles and responsibilities in relation to:

- identifying the need for appropriate arrangements, reasonable adjustments and/or adaptations (referred to in this policy as ‘access arrangements’)
- requesting access arrangements
- implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams
- good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 Definition of Disability

A definition is provided on page 13 of the JCQ publication *Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties* Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2025-2026.

This publication is further referred to in this policy as AA.

Exam Access Arrangements What are they?

Access Arrangements are reasonable adjustments which allow candidates with specific needs to access examinations and assessments without the need to change the demands of the assessment itself. The purpose of an access arrangement is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate, preventing them from being placed at a substantial disadvantage due to persistent and significant difficulties. Access arrangements could include things like: use of a word processor; extra time; supervised rest breaks; a smaller room; a prompt; modified papers.

How are Access Arrangements managed at Caistor Grammar School?

Access Arrangements are based on the individual need of the candidate. CGS will always work to ensure that a fair and proportionate set of arrangements are in place for all candidates when they are sitting examinations. There has to be a substantial body of evidence in place that we can provide for JCQ (the Joint Council for Qualifications) from teaching staff to grant an access arrangement. This can be supplemented by parental evidence, but evidence from the classroom is the primary source of evidence for JCQ, to satisfy their requirements.

It is essential that candidates are familiar with their access arrangements as far in advance of their external exams as possible. Access arrangements should be the candidate’s normal way of working. Therefore, it is likely that access arrangements will be in place for GCSE exams by the end of Year

10 and for A-level exams by the end of Year 12. Access Arrangements are granted on a subject-by-subject basis and are always co-ordinated by the SENCO.

The usual pathway is that no Access Arrangements are granted in Year 7. This is the year when the SENCO can gather evidence from teaching staff and parents to investigate if an Access Arrangement might be appropriate. Access Arrangements in place at Key Stage 2 do not automatically get replicated at Key Stage 3. Once granted, Access Arrangements are usually trialled in Years 8 and 9, when teaching staff are asked to confirm that they feel these are necessary to remove barriers for the candidates in a fair and proportionate way. These candidates are then tested in School by an external verifier (usually in Year 10), in order to solidify the arrangements. Candidates who are new in Year 10 will be assessed by teaching staff, and the process outlined above will be accelerated for them. Whilst it is possible for access arrangements to be granted by the SENCO in Years 11 and 13, this is highly unlikely.

Candidates who move from Year 11 to Year 12 do not automatically receive the same access arrangements at A level that they did at GCSE. The SENCO will again need to consult staff during Year 12 to build up a bank of evidence for what might be an appropriate access arrangement, again primarily from the teaching staff in the classroom context. Where granted, these access arrangements are then confirmed by an external verifier.

Please note that letters and diagnoses from medical professionals, whilst helpful in building up a picture, are insufficient evidence to generate access arrangements in themselves. This is the case even where a medical professional has indicated in such documents that they give their support for access arrangements. Any letters submitted to the school should be from the medical professionals with whom the candidate has had appointments, tests and/or consultations. Access arrangements are always granted via the SENCO, based primarily on the evidence given by subject teachers and over a sustained period of time.

In exceptional circumstances (for example a broken arm) we might need to apply for special consideration for candidates at the point of the examinations. Parents should contact the Exams Officer in the first instance, if this affects their child.

Identifying the Need for Access Arrangements

Roles and Responsibilities

Head of Centre

- Is familiar with the entire contents, refers to and directs relevant Caistor Grammar School staff to the annually updated JCQ publications including GR and AA
- Ensures the quality of the access arrangements process within Caistor Grammar School
- Ensures staff roles, responsibilities and processes in identifying, requesting and implementing access arrangements for candidates (including private candidates) are clearly defined and documented
- Ensures an appropriately qualified assessor(s) is appointed, evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) is obtained before he/she assesses candidates and that evidence of the qualification(s) of the person(s) appointed is held on file
- Ensures the assessment process is administered in accordance with the regulations and that the correct procedures are followed as per Chapter 8 of AA
- Ensures a policy demonstrating Caistor Grammar Schools compliance with relevant legislation is in place
- Support the SENCO in determining the need for and implementing access arrangements
- Ensures a statement is provided which details the criteria Caistor Grammar School uses to award and allocate word processors for exams

- The head of centre must ensure that the 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

Senior Leaders

- Are familiar with the entire contents of the annually updated JCQ publications including GR and AA

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)

- Has full knowledge and understanding of the contents, refers to and directs relevant Caistor Grammar School staff to the annually updated JCQ publication AA
- Leads on the access arrangements process to facilitate access for candidates
- Defines and documents roles, responsibilities and processes in identifying, requesting and implementing access arrangements (*Access arrangements policy*)
- Provides a policy on the use of word processors in exams and assessments
- If not the appropriately qualified assessor, works with the person/persons appointed, on all matters relating to assessing candidates and the administration of the assessment process
- Ensures the qualified assessor(s) has access to the assessment objectives for the relevant specification(s) a candidate is undertaking
- Ensures that all assessments carried out and arrangements put in place comply with JCQ and awarding body regulations and guidance
- Ensures arrangements put in place for exams/assessments reflect a candidate's *normal way of working* within the Caistor Grammar School
- Ensures the need for access arrangements for a candidate is considered on a subject-by-subject basis
- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification
- Works with teaching staff, relevant support staff and the exams officer to ensure centre-delegated and awarding body approved access arrangements are put in place for candidates taking internal and external exams/assessments

Teaching Staff

- Inform the SENCo of any support that might be needed by a candidate
- Provide information to evidence the normal way of working of a candidate

Support Staff (for example, Learning Support Assistants, Teaching Assistants and Communication Support Workers)

- Provide comments/observations to support the SENCo to paint a *holistic picture of need* confirming *normal way of working* for a candidate

Assessor of Candidates with Learning Difficulties

(An assessor of candidates with learning difficulties will be an appropriately qualified access arrangements assessor/psychologist/specialist assessor)

- Has detailed understanding of the JCQ publication AA
- Conducts appropriate assessments to identify the need(s) of a candidate
- Provides appropriate evidence to confirm the need(s) of a candidate
- Completes appropriate documentation as required by the regulations of JCQ and the awarding body

Use of word processors

The Guidelines for the Use of Word Processors Policy can be found on the school website.

Centres are allowed to provide a word processor (e.g. computer, laptop or tablet) with the spelling and grammar check/predictive text disabled to a candidate where it is their normal way of working within the centre, unless an awarding body's specification says otherwise. For example, where the curriculum is delivered electronically and the centre provides word processors to all candidates. This also includes an electronic braille or a tablet. [ICE 14.20]

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.

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]

Requesting Access Arrangements

Roles and Responsibilities

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)

- Determines if the arrangements identified for a candidate require prior approval from the awarding body before the arrangements are put in place or if approval is centre-delegated
- Follows guidance in AA_Section 8 to process approval applications for access arrangements for those qualifications included
- Applies for approval where this is required, with the Exams Officer, through *Access arrangements online* (AAO), or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Ensures appropriate and required evidence is held on file to confirm validation responses in AAO including (where required) the completion of JCQ Form 8 (*Application for access arrangements – Profile of learning difficulties*), and/or centre based evidence including concise file note(s) on centre headed paper, signed and dated, and a body of evidence to substantiate the candidate's normal way of working within Caistor Grammar School (Form 8 must only be used for candidates with learning difficulties who are not subject to a current EHCP or Statement of Special Educational Needs or those requiring a Language Modifier.)
- Ensures where form 8 is required to be completed, the form is signed (a handwritten, electronic or typed signature is acceptable) and dated as required **prior** to approval being sought and that the form is provided for processing and inspection purposes (This may be a hard copy paper version or an electronic version)
- Ensures the names of all other assessors, who are assessing candidates studying qualifications covered by AAO, are entered into AAO to confirm their status including any professionals working outside of Caistor Grammar School
- Confirms by ticking the 'Confirmation' box prior to submitting the application for approval that the 'malpractice consequence statement' has been read and accepted
- Makes an *awarding body referral* through AAO where the initial application for approval may not be approved by AAO, where it is deemed by Caistor Grammar School that the candidate does meet the criteria for the arrangement(s)
- Ensures that arrangements, and approval where required, are in place before a candidate takes his/her first exam or assessment (which is externally assessed or internally assessed/externally moderated)
- Ensures that where approval is required that this is processed at the start of the course and at the latest by the awarding body deadline
 - Maintains a file/e-folder for each candidate (the required documentation for a candidate will either be all in hard copy within the candidate's file **or** all in electronic format within the candidate's e-folder) that will include:
 - completed JCQ/awarding body application forms and evidence forms

- appropriate evidence to support the need for the arrangement where required
- appropriate evidence to support normal way of working within Caistor Grammar School
- in addition, for those qualifications covered by AAO (where approval is required), a print out/PDF of the AAO approval and a signed candidate personal data consent form (which provides candidate consent to their personal details being shared)
- Presents the files/e-folders when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and addresses any queries/questions raised

Exams Officer (EO)

- Is familiar with the entire contents of the annually updated JCQ publication GR and is aware of information contained in AA where this may be relevant to the EO role
- If the SENCo is unavailable, presents the files/e-folders of access arrangements candidates when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and addresses any queries/questions raised
- Liaises with teaching staff regarding any appropriate modified paper requirements for candidates
- Liaises with the SENCo to ensure arrangements are in place to either order a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper or to open question paper packets in the secure room within 90 minutes of the published starting time for the exam where Caistor Grammar School is permitted to modify a timetabled written component exam paper (copy on coloured paper, enlarge to A3 or copy to single sided print)
- Following the appropriate process (using AAO for those qualifications included in the tool; using *Form VQ/EA*), orders published modified papers, by the awarding body's deadline for the exam series, where these may be required for a candidate
- Applies for approval where this is required, with SENCO, through *Access arrangements online (AAO)*, or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

Implementing Access Arrangements and the Conduct of Exams

Roles and Responsibilities

External Assessments

These are assessments which are normally set and marked/examined by an awarding body which must be conducted according to awarding body instructions and/or the JCQ publication Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE).

Head of Centre

- Supports the SENCo, the exams officer and other relevant Caistor Grammar School staff in ensuring appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Is familiar with the instructions for *Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements* and *Access arrangements* in ICE 2022-2023
- Ensures a candidate is involved in any decisions about arrangements, adjustments and/or adaptations that may be put in place for him/her and ensures the candidate understands what will happen at exam time
- 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
- Ensures that prior to any arrangements being put in place checks are made that arrangements do not impact on any assessment criteria/competence standards being tested
- Ensures that any arrangements put in place do not unfairly disadvantage or advantage disabled candidates

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)

- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access 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)
- Monitors, in internal tests/mock exams, the use of arrangements granted to a candidate and where a candidate has never made use of the arrangement, may consider withdrawing the arrangement, provided the candidate will not be placed at a substantial disadvantage
- Liaises with the exams officer (EO) regarding facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates in exams
- Liaises with other relevant Caistor Grammar School staff regarding the provision of appropriate rooming and equipment that may be required to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Liaises with the EO where a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of exams
- Where required for emergency (temporary) access arrangements, applies for approval through AAO or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

Exams Officer

- Liaises with other relevant Caistor Grammar School staff regarding the provision of appropriate rooming and equipment that may be required to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Understands and follows instructions for *Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements* and *Access arrangements* in ICE2025-2026
- Liaises with other relevant Caistor Grammar School staff regarding the provision of appropriate rooming and equipment that may be required to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Appoints appropriate staff as facilitators to support candidates (practical assistant, prompter, Language Modifier, reader, scribe or Communication Professional)
- Ensures facilitators supporting candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular access arrangement(s)
- Ensures a record of the content of training given to those facilitating an access arrangement for a candidate under examination conditions is kept and retained on file until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
- Ensures where the candidate's own subject teacher will be used (in exceptional circumstances) as a facilitator, an invigilator will be present at all times
- Ensures where a facilitator is allocated to support a candidate under exam conditions that they will not be a relative, friend, peer or private tutor of the candidate
- Ensures the facilitator is known by or introduced to the candidate prior to exams
- Ensures a facilitator acting as a prompter will not normally be the candidate's own subject teacher and must not be a relative, friend or peer of the candidate (understanding that a private tutor cannot act as a prompter for the candidate)
- Ensures a facilitator acting as a prompter is aware of the appropriate way to prompt depending on the needs of the candidate
- Liaises with the EO to ensure that invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues
- Ensures invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates are trained in their role and understand the invigilation arrangements required for access arrangement candidates and the role of any facilitator
- Ensures cover sheets, where these are required by the arrangement are completed as required by facilitators
- Liaises with the SENCo and other relevant Caistor Grammar School staff to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams

- Liaises with the SENCo to ensure 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
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with the SENCo to ensure 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
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with the SENCo to ensure that invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues
- Ensures appropriate seating arrangements are in place where different arrangements may need to be made for a candidate to facilitate access to his/her exams
- Ensures candidates with access arrangements are identified on exam room seating plans and invigilators are made aware of the arrangements awarded
- Ensures invigilators are briefed prior to each exam session of the arrangements in place for a disabled candidate in their exam room
- Checks in advance of dated exams/assessments that modified paper orders have arrived (and if not will contact the awarding body to ensure that papers are available when required)
- Makes modifications that are permitted by Caistor Grammar School (a question paper copied onto coloured paper, an A4 to A3 enlarged paper or a paper printed on single sheets or where a question paper may need to be scanned into PDF format where a candidate is approved the use of a computer reader) that may be required and either accesses a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper or opens the exam question paper packet in the secure room no earlier than 90 minutes prior to the awarding body's published start time of the exam
- If modified paper is being printed from PDF i.e. AQA and Pearson this can be done no earlier than 60 minutes prior to the awarding body's published start time of the exam
- Understands that where permitted/approved, secure exam question paper packets may need to be opened early so the facilitator (Language Modifier, Live Speaker, Communication Professional **only**) may have access to the question paper 60 minutes prior to the awarding body's published starting time for the exam in order to prepare
- Centres should be aware that enlarging an examination question paper may affect questions relating to scale. This must be considered in the centre's process. It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that the examination question paper is photocopied to a high standard. (AA 2025-2026, 6.5.2)
- Provides cover sheets prior to the start of an exam **where required** for particular access arrangements and ensures that these have been fully completed before candidates' scripts are dispatched to examiners/markers
 - prints pre-populated cover sheets from AAO where this is required for particular arrangements
- Has a process in place to deal with emergency (temporary) access arrangements as they arise at the time of exams in terms of rooming and invigilation
- Liaises with the SENCo where a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of exams
- Where required for emergency (temporary) access arrangements, applies for approval through AAO or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

Other Relevant Caistor Grammar School Staff

- Support the SENCo and the exams officer to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Staff responsible for **IT or other specialist equipment** that may need to be provided or adapted for a candidate

- Estates/site staff responsible for **rooms and non-specialist equipment** (chairs, tables, clocks etc.) used for exams that may need to be adapted for a candidate
- Senior staff responsible for Caistor Grammar Schools **emergency evacuation procedures** and the arrangements that may need to be in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance when an exam room is evacuated

Internal assessments

These are non-examination assessments (NEA) which are normally set by a centre/awarding body, marked and internally moderated by the centre and externally moderated by the awarding body.

Externally marked and/or externally set practical examinations taken at different times across centres are classified as 'NEA'. [JCQ publication Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments, Foreword]

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)

- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Ensures centre-delegated and awarding body approved arrangements are in place prior to a candidate taking his/her first formal supervised assessment
- Ensures candidates are aware of the access arrangements that are in place for their assessments
- Ensures a candidate has had appropriate opportunities to practise using the access arrangement(s) before his/her first examination
- Ensures facilitators supporting candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the
 - particular access arrangement(s)
- Ensures cover sheets are completed as required by facilitators
- Liaises with the teacher where a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of his/her formal supervised assessment

Teaching staff

- Support the SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Provide the SENCo with assessment schedules to ensure arrangements are put in place when required
- Liaise with the SENCo regarding assessment materials that may need to be modified for a candidate

Internal exams

These are exams or tests which are set and marked within Caistor Grammar School.

Special educational needs coordinator (SENCo)

- Liaises with EO and teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates

Teaching staff

- Support the SENCo and EO in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Provide exam materials that may need to be modified for a candidate

Exams Officer

- Provide the SENCo with internal exam timetable to ensure arrangements are put in place when required

Facilitating access - examples

The following information confirms Caistor Grammar Schools good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010 and the conduct of examinations.

On a candidate-by-candidate basis, consideration is given to

- adapting assessment arrangements
- adapting assessment materials
- the provision of specialist equipment or adaptation of standard equipment
- adaptation of the physical environment for access purposes

The table provides example arrangements, adjustments and adaptations that are considered to meet the need(s) of a candidate and the actions considered/taken by Caistor Grammar School for the purposes of facilitating access.

Example of candidate need(s)	Arrangements explored	Caistor Grammar School actions
<p>A medical condition which prevents the candidate from taking exams in the Caistor Grammar School</p>	<p>Alternative site for the conduct of examinations Supervised rest breaks</p>	<p><i>SENCo gathers evidence to support the need for the candidate to take exams at home</i></p> <p><i>Pastoral head provides written statement for file to confirm the need</i></p> <p><i>Approval confirmed by SENCo; AAO approval for both arrangements not required</i></p> <p><i>Pastoral head discussion with candidate to confirm the arrangements should be put in place</i></p> <p><i>EO submits 'Alternative site form' for timetabled written exams to awarding body/bodies online through CAP</i></p> <p><i>An on-line submission must only be made for timetabled written examinations in the following qualifications...</i></p> <p><i>EO provides candidate with exam timetable and JCQ information for candidates</i></p> <p><i>Pastoral head confirms with candidate the information is understood</i></p> <p><i>Pastoral head agrees with candidate that prior to each exam will call to confirm fitness to take exam</i></p> <p><i>EO allocates invigilator(s) to candidate's timetable; confirms time of collection of exam papers and materials</i></p> <p><i>Invigilator monitors candidate's condition for each exam and records any issues on incident log</i></p> <p><i>Invigilator records rest breaks (time and duration) on incident log and confirms set time given for exam</i></p> <p><i>Invigilator briefs EO after each exam on how candidate's performance in exam may have been affected by his/her condition</i></p> <p><i>EO discusses with pastoral head if candidate is eligible for special consideration (candidate present but disadvantaged)</i></p> <p><i>EO processes request(s) for special consideration where applicable; incident log(s) provides supporting evidence</i></p> <p><i>Pastoral head informs candidate that special consideration has been requested</i></p>

Significant difficulty in concentrating	Prompter Separate invigilation within Caistor Grammar School	<i>Gathers evidence to support substantial and long term adverse impairment</i> <i>Confirms with candidate how and when they will be prompted</i> <i>Briefs invigilator to monitor candidate and the method of prompting (call out his name to bring his attention back to the paper - confirms requirement for separate room)</i>
A wheelchair user	Desk Rooms Facilities Seating arrangements Practical assistant	<i>Applies for practical assistant to help candidate set up wheelchair and other equipment in a practical assessment; approval automatically fails so awarding body referral lists the tasks that will be performed</i> <i>Provides height adjustable desk in exam room</i> <i>Allocates exam room on ground floor near adapted bathroom facilities</i> <i>Spaces desks to allow wheelchair access</i> <i>Seats candidate near exam room door</i> <i>Confirms arrangements in place to assist the candidate in case of emergency evacuation of the exam room</i> <i>Practical assistant cover sheet printed from AAO; to be completed by facilitator and inserted inside the candidate's work where this may be applicable to the assessment</i>

The criteria Caistor Grammar School uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations

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. [AA5.8]

The 'normal way of working' for exam candidates, as directed by the head of centre, is that candidates handwrite their exams. An exception to this is where a candidate may have an approved access arrangement in place, for example the use of a scribe/speech recognition technology.

The use of word processors

There are also exceptions where a candidate may be awarded/allocated the use of a word processor in exams where he/she has a firmly established need, it reflects the candidate's normal way of working and by not being awarded a word processor would be at a substantial disadvantage to other candidates.

Needs might include where a candidate has, for example:

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

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

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

Arrangements for the use of word processors at the time of the assessment

Appropriate exam-compliant word processors will be provided by the IT department in liaison with the SENCo and the exams officer. In exceptional circumstances where the number of appropriate word processors may be insufficient for the cohort of candidates approved to use them in an exam session, the cohort will be split into two groups. One group will sit the exam earlier than or later than the awarding body's published start time. The security of the exam will be maintained at all times and candidates will be supervised in line with section 7 of ICE.

Statement produced by: **Marcus Croft, Director of Studies, Caistor Grammar School**

Statement date: 31/10/2019

Updated by: **Samantha Johnson, Exams Officer, Caistor Grammar School**

Date: January 2026

**Complaints and Appeals
Procedure (Exams)
2025/2026**

Purpose of the Procedure

This procedure confirms Caistor Grammar Schools compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres 2025-2026 (section 5.3x) that Caistor Grammar School 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.*

Grounds for Complaint

A candidate (or his/her/parent/carer) may make a complaint on the grounds below (this is not an exhaustive list).

Teaching and Learning

- Pre-release/advance material/set task issued by the awarding body not provided on time to an exam candidate
- The taking of an assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not conducted according to the JCQ/awarding body instructions
- The marking of an internal assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not undertaken according to the requirements of the awarding body (complainant should refer to the Caistor Grammar Schools *internal appeals procedure*)
- Caistor Grammar school fails to adhere to its *internal appeals procedure*
- Candidate not informed of his/her assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not informed of his/her assessed marks in sufficient time to request/appeal a review of marking prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not given sufficient time to review materials to make a decision whether to request a review of assessed marks

Access Arrangements

- Candidate not assessed by Caistor Grammar Schools appointed assessor
- Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding his/her access arrangements
- Candidate did not consent to personal data being shared electronically (by the non-acquisition of a signed data protection notice/candidate data personal consent form)
- *Personal data consent, Privacy Notice (AAO) and Data Protection confirmation form*
- Candidate not informed/adequately informed of the arrangements in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangements would not apply
- Exam information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it
- Adapted equipment put in place failed during exam/assessment
- Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment
- Appropriate arrangements not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment

Entries

- Failure to clearly explain a decision of early entry for a qualification to candidate (or parent/carer)
- Candidate not entered/entered late (incurring a late entry fee) for a required exam/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong exam/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong tier of entry

Conducting examinations

- Failure to adequately brief candidate on exam timetable/exam regulations prior to exam/assessment taking place
- Room in which exam held did not provide candidate with appropriate conditions for taking the exam
- Inadequate invigilation in exam room
- Failure to conduct exam according to the regulations
- Online system failed during (on-screen) exam/assessment
- Disruption during exam/assessment
- Alleged, suspected or actual malpractice incident not investigated/reported
- Eligible application for special consideration for a candidate not submitted/not submitted to timescale
- Failure to inform/update candidate on the outcome of a special consideration application

Results and Post-Results

- Before exams, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the accessibility of senior members of Caistor Grammar School staff after the publication of results
- Candidate not having access to a member of senior staff after the publication of results to discuss/make decision on the submission of a review/enquiry
- Candidate request for return of work after moderation and work not available/disposed of earlier than allowed in the regulations
- Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a result (complainant to refer via exams officer to awarding body *post-results services*)
- Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a Caistor Grammar School decision not to support a review of moderation or an appeal (complainant to refer via the Exams Officer) to Caistor Grammar Schools *internal appeals procedure*)
- Caistor Grammar School applied for the wrong post-results service/for the wrong exam paper for a candidate
- Caistor Grammar School missed awarding body deadline to apply for a post-results service
- Caistor Grammar School applied for a post-results service for candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission

Complaints and Appeals Procedure

If a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) has a general concern or complaint about Caistor Grammar Schools delivery or administration of a qualification he/she is following, Caistor Grammar School encourages him/her to try to resolve this informally in the first instance. A discussion with the Exams Officer to understand what has happened and why, is recommended. The next stage being a concern or complaint should be made in person, by telephone or in writing to the head of centre.

If a complaint fails to be resolved informally, the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) is then at liberty to make a formal complaint.

Complainants are directed to the school Complaints Policy, available on the school website or from the Exams Officer.



CAISTOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Complaints and appeals form

FOR CGS USE ONLY

Date received

Reference No.

Please tick box to indicate the nature of your complaint/appeal

- Complaint/appeal against Caistor Grammar Schools delivery of a qualification
- Complaint/appeal against Caistor Grammar Schools administration of a qualification

Name of complainant/appellant

Candidate name if different to complainant/appellant

Please state the grounds for your complaint/appeal below

If your complaint is lengthy please write as bullet points; please keep to the point and include relevant detail such as dates, names etc. and provide any evidence you may have to support what you say

Your appeal should identify Caistor Grammar Schools failure to follow procedures as set out in the relevant policy, and/or issues in teaching and learning which have impacted the candidate

If necessary, continue on an additional page if this form is being completed electronically or overleaf if hard copy being completed

Detail any steps you have already taken to resolve the issue(s) and what you would consider to be a good resolution to the issue(s)

Complainant/appellant signature:

Date of signature:

This form must be completed in full; an incomplete form will be returned to the complainant/appellant

Access Arrangements Policy

2025/26

What are Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments?

Access Arrangements

Access arrangements are agreed before an assessment. They allow candidates with specific needs, such as special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to access the assessment and show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the assessment. The intention behind an access arrangement is to meet the particular needs of an individual candidate without affecting the integrity of the assessment. Access arrangements are the principal way in which awarding bodies comply with the duty under the Equality Act 2010* to make 'reasonable adjustments'. [AA Definitions, page 3]

Reasonable Adjustments

The Equality Act 2010* requires an awarding body to make reasonable adjustments where a candidate, who is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010, would be at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to someone who is not disabled. The awarding body is required to take reasonable steps to overcome that disadvantage. An example would be a Braille paper which would be a reasonable adjustment for a vision impaired candidate who could read Braille. A reasonable adjustment may be unique to that individual and may not be included in the list of available access arrangements. Whether an adjustment will be considered reasonable will depend on a number of factors which will include, but are not limited to:

- the needs of the disabled candidate;
- the effectiveness of the adjustment;
- the cost of the adjustment; and
- the likely impact of the adjustment upon the candidate and other candidates.

An adjustment will not be approved if it:

- involves unreasonable costs to the awarding body;
- involves unreasonable timeframes; or
- affects the security and integrity of the assessment.

This is because the adjustment is not 'reasonable'. Access arrangements are the principal way in which awarding bodies comply with the duty under the Equality Act 2010* to make 'reasonable adjustments'. [AA Definitions, page 3]

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm that Caistor Grammar School has a written record which clearly shows the school is leading on the access arrangements process and is complying with its ...obligation to identify the need for, request and implement access arrangements...

[JCQ General Regulations for Approved Centres, 5.5]

This publication is further referred to in this policy as GR

This policy is maintained and held by the SENCo alongside the individual files/e-folders of each access arrangements candidate. Each file/e-folder contains detailed records of all the essential information that is required to be held according to the regulations.

Where the SENCo is storing access arrangements documentation electronically he/she **must** create an e-folder for each individual candidate. The candidate's e-folder must hold each of the required documents for inspection. (AA 4.2)

The policy is annually reviewed to ensure that processes are carried out in accordance with the current edition of the JCQ publication Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments.

This publication is further referred to in this policy as AA

General Principles

The general principles of access arrangements for the centre to consider are detailed in AA (section 4.2). These include:

The purpose of an access arrangement is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing him/her from being placed at a substantial disadvantage due to persistent and significant difficulties. The integrity of the assessment is maintained, whilst at the same time providing access to assessments for a disabled candidate.

The SENCo, or an equivalent member of staff within a FE college, must ensure that the proposed access arrangement does not disadvantage or advantage the candidate.

Arrangements must always be approved before an examination or assessment.

The arrangement(s) put in place must reflect the support given to the candidate in the centre.

The candidate **must** have had appropriate opportunities to practise using the access arrangement(s) before his/her first examination.

It is important that SENCOs consider and, where appropriate, implement access arrangements that will prepare candidates for the workplace. 25% extra time may not always be the most appropriate arrangement. SENCOs should instead consider alternative arrangements, such as assistive technology, listening to music/white noise, supervised rest breaks or a timer. (page 8)

Equality Policy (Exams)

A large part of the access arrangements process is covered in the Equality Policy (exams) which covers staff roles and responsibilities in identifying the need for, requesting and implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams.

The Equality Policy (exams) is located at Appendix C of the Exams Policy document.

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, through the access arrangements process submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates...

| [GR 5.4]

The Access arrangements policy further covers the assessment process and related issues in more detail.

The Assessment Process

Assessments are carried out by an assessor(s) appointed by the head of centre. The assessor(s) is (are) appropriately qualified as required by JCQ regulations in AA 7.3.

The Qualification(s) of the Current Assessor(s)

Current Access Arrangement assessors are brought in from the Lincolnshire County Council SENCO service. They are PATOSS qualified.

Appointment of Assessors of Candidates with Learning Difficulties

At the point an assessor is engaged/employed by Caistor Grammar School, evidence of the assessor's qualification is obtained and checked against the current requirements in AA. This process is carried out prior to the assessor undertaking any assessment of a candidate.

Checking the qualification(s) of the assessor(s)

All assessors are to provide a copy of their qualification certificate and in date registration with the appropriate professional body, before assessing any Caistor Grammar School students.

| **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]

| **The head of centre must ensure that evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) is obtained at the point of engagement/employment and prior to the assessor undertaking any assessment of a candidate.**

Evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) **must** be held on file for inspection purposes and be presented to the JCQ Centre Inspector by the SENCo. [AA 7.3]

Reporting the Appointment of the Assessor(s)

Copies of all assessor qualifications are held by the SENCO and the Exams Officer.

Process for the Assessment of a Candidate's Learning Difficulties by an Assessor

Where a candidate has learning difficulties and is not subject to a current *Education, Health and Care Plan* or *Statement of Special Educational Needs* the SENCo paints a picture of need and demonstrates the candidate's normal way of working. This is done in conjunction with teaching and other support staff. The SENCO then completes Part 1 of Form 8 prior to the candidate being assessed.

Caistor Grammar School confirms ...that the correct procedures are followed as per Chapter 7 of the JCQ publication *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments*...

[GR 5.4]

Note

...SENCOs and assessors working within the centre should always carefully consider any privately commissioned assessment to see whether the process of gathering a picture of need, demonstrating normal way of working within the centre and ultimately assessing the candidate themselves should be instigated. [AA 7.3]

Painting a 'holistic picture of need', Confirming Normal Way of Working

The SENCO maintains regular contact with form tutors, heads of year and subject teachers. Issues raised by staff prompt the SENCO to work with support and teaching staff to offer solutions to those issues. Outcomes are monitored and normal ways of working to give students the best opportunities when up against limiting factors are noted, and from that a picture of need can be painted. This process commences any time from year 7 and continues throughout the school life of a student. A folder on each student assessed and monitored is held and maintained by the SENCO.

Before the candidate's assessment, the SENCo **must** provide the assessor with background information, i.e. a picture of need has been painted as per Part 1 of Form 8. The SENCo and the assessor must work together to ensure a joined-up and consistent process...

An independent assessor **must** contact the centre and ask for evidence of the candidate's normal way of working and relevant background information. This must take place before the candidate is assessed.

All candidates **must** be assessed in light of the picture of need and the background information as detailed within Part 1 of Form 8.

An independent assessor **must** discuss access arrangements with the SENCo. The responsibility to request access arrangements specifically lies with the SENCo... [AA 7.5]

Processing Access Arrangements

Arrangements Requiring Awarding Body Approval

Access Arrangements Online (AAO) is a tool provided by JCQ member awarding bodies for centres to apply for required access arrangement approval for the qualifications listed on page 2 of AA. This tool also provides the facility to order modified papers for those qualifications listed on page 74.

AAO is accessed within the JCQ Centre Admin Portal (CAP) by logging in to one of the awarding body secure extranet sites. A single application is required for each candidate regardless of the awarding body used.

The SENCO will make applications using AAO. This will ideally be done at the commencement of a course of study for a student or up until the final deadline date prior to the exam season, as per JCQ and awarding body timetables. AAO documentation is kept with the SENCO files.

The SENCO **must** keep detailed records, whether electronically or in hard copy paper format, of all the essential information on file. This includes a copy of the candidate's approved application, appropriate evidence of need (where required) **and** a signed candidate personal data consent form for inspection by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service. [AA 8.6]

Caistor Grammar School Specific Criteria for Particular Access Arrangements

Word Processor Policy (Exams)

An exam candidate may be approved the use of a word processor where this is appropriate to the candidate's needs and not simply because this is the candidate's preferred way of working within the centre.

The Guidelines for the Use of Word Processors Policy can be found on the school website.

Centres are allowed to provide a word processor (e.g. computer, laptop or tablet) **with the spelling and grammar check/predictive text disabled** to a candidate **where it is their normal way of working within the centre**, unless an awarding body's specification says otherwise. **For example, where the curriculum is delivered electronically and the centre provides word processors to all candidates.** This also includes an electronic braille or a tablet. [ICE 14.20]

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]

Alternative Room Arrangement within Caistor Grammar School

A decision where an exam candidate may be approved alternative room arrangement within Caistor Grammar School will be made by the SENCO.

The decision will be based on:

- whether the candidate has a **substantial and long term impairment** which has an adverse effect on themselves or maybe on others; **and**
- **the candidate's normal way of working within the centre** [AA5.16]
- Nervousness, low level anxiety or being worried about examinations is **not** sufficient grounds for separate invigilation within the centre

The use of an alternative room with one-to-one invigilation must only apply where the candidate has a serious medical condition, such as frequent seizures, Tourette's or significant behavioural issues which would disturb other candidates in the examination room [AA 2025-2026 page 82]

Non-Examination Assessment Policy 2025/2026

What Does this Policy Affect?

This policy affects the delivery of subjects of GCE and GCSE qualifications which contain a component(s) of non-examination assessment.

The regulator's definition of an examination is very narrow. In effect, any type of assessment that is not 'externally set and taken by candidates at the same time under controlled conditions' is classified as non-examination assessment (NEA). 'NEA' therefore includes, but is not limited to, internal assessment. Externally marked and/or externally set practical examinations taken at different times across centres are classified as 'NEA'.

[JCQ publication [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#), Foreword]
This publication is further referred to in this policy as [NEA](#)

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy, as defined by JCQ, is to

- cover procedures for planning and managing non-examination assessments
- define staff roles and responsibilities with respect to non-examination assessments
- manage risks associated with non-examination assessments including the use of AI

The policy will need to cover all types of non-examination assessment. [[NEA](#) 1]

What are Non-Examination Assessments?

Non-examination assessments measure subject-specific knowledge and skills that cannot be tested by timed written papers.

There are three assessment stages and rules which apply to each stage. These rules often vary across subjects. The stages are:

- task setting;
- task taking;
- task marking.

[[NEA](#) 1]

Procedures for Planning and Managing Non-Examination Assessments Identifying Staff Roles and Responsibilities

The Basic Principles

Head of Centre

- Returns an online 'Head of Centre declaration' at the time of the National Centre Number Register annual update to confirm awareness of and that relevant Caistor Grammar School staff are adhering to the latest version of [NEA](#)
- Ensures Caistor Grammar Schools *non-examination assessment policy* is fit for purpose
- Ensures Caistor Grammar Schools *internal appeals procedures* clearly detail the procedure to be followed by candidates (or their parents/carers) appealing against internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks) and requesting a review of Caistor Grammar Schools marking

Senior Leaders

- Ensure the correct conduct of non-examination assessments (including endorsements) which comply with [NEA](#) and awarding body subject-specific instructions

Subject Head/Lead

- Ensures subject teachers understand their role and responsibilities within the non-examination assessment process
- Ensures NEA and relevant awarding body subject specific instructions are followed in relation to the conduct of non-examination assessments (including endorsements)

Subject Teacher

- Understands and complies with the general instructions as detailed in NEA
- Where these may also be provided by the awarding body, understands and complies with the awarding body's specification for conducting non-examination assessments, including any subject-specific instructions, teachers' notes or additional information on the awarding body's website
- Marks internally assessed work to the criteria provided by the awarding body
- Ensures the exams officer is provided with relevant entry codes for subjects (whether the entry for the internally assessed component forms part of the overall entry code for the qualification or is made as a separate unit entry code) to the internal deadline for entries

Exams Officer

- Signposts the annually updated JCQ publication NEA to relevant Caistor Grammar School staff
- Carries out tasks where these may be applicable to the role in supporting the administration/management of non-examination assessment

Task setting

- **Subject Teacher**
- Selects tasks to be undertaken where a number of comparable tasks are provided by the awarding body OR designs tasks where this is permitted by criteria set out within the subject specification
- Makes candidates aware of the criteria used to assess their work

Issuing of Tasks

Subject Teacher

- Determines when set tasks are issued by the awarding body
- Identifies date(s) when tasks should be taken by candidates
- Accesses set tasks in sufficient time to allow planning, resourcing and teaching and ensures that materials are stored securely at all times

Task Taking

Supervision

Subject Teacher

- Checks the awarding body's subject-specific requirements ensuring candidates take tasks under the required conditions and supervision arrangements
- Ensures there is sufficient supervision to enable the work of a candidate to be authenticated
- Ensures there is sufficient supervision to ensure the work a candidate submits is their own
- Is confident where work may be completed outside of school without direct supervision, that the work produced is the candidate's own
- Where candidates may work in groups, keeps a record of each candidate's contribution
- Ensures candidates are aware of the current JCQ documents Information for candidates - non-examination assessments and Information for candidates - Social Media

- Ensures candidates understand and comply with the regulations in relevant JCQ documents
Information for candidates

Advice and Feedback

Subject Teacher

- As relevant to the subject/component, advises candidates on relevant aspects before candidates begin working on a task
- Will not provide candidates with model answers or outlines/headings specific to the task
- When reviewing candidates' work, unless prohibited by the specification, provides oral and written advice at a general level to candidates
- Allows candidates to revise and re-draft work after advice has been given at a general level
- Records any assistance given beyond general advice and takes it into account in the marking or submits it to the external examiner
- Ensures when work has been assessed, candidates are not allowed to revise it
- Ensures all content, themes and performances are age appropriate for students and in-line with CGS safeguarding policies and procedures

Resources

Subject Teacher

- Refers to the awarding body's specification and/or associated documentation to determine if candidates have restricted/unrestricted access to resources when planning and researching their tasks
- Ensures conditions for any formally supervised sessions are known and put in place
- Ensures appropriate arrangements are in place to keep the work to be assessed, and any preparatory work, secure between any formally supervised sessions, including work that is stored electronically
- Ensures conditions for any formally supervised sessions are understood and followed by candidates
- Ensures candidates understand that they are not allowed to introduce improved notes or new resources between formally supervised sessions
- Ensures that where appropriate to include references, candidates keep a detailed record of their own research, planning, resources etc.

Word and Time Limits

Subject Teacher

- Refers to the awarding body's specification to determine where word and time limits apply/are mandatory

Collaboration and Group Work

Subject Teacher

- Unless stated otherwise in the awarding body's specification, and where appropriate, allows candidates to collaborate when carrying out research and preparatory work
- Ensures that it is possible to attribute assessable outcomes to individual candidates
- Ensures that where an assignment requires written work to be produced, each candidate writes up their own account of the assignment
- Assesses the work of each candidate individually

Authentication Procedures

Subject Teacher

- Where required by the awarding body's specification
 - ensures candidates sign a declaration confirming the work they submit for final assessment is their own unaided work and that students are aware of the restrictions surrounding the use of AI
 - signs the teacher declaration of authentication confirming the requirements have been met
- Keeps signed candidate declarations on file until the deadline for requesting reviews of results has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
- Provides signed candidate declarations where these may be requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector
- Where there may be doubt about the authenticity of the work of a candidate or if malpractice is suspected, follows the authentication procedures and malpractice information in NEA and informs a member of the senior leadership team
- Understands that if, during the external moderation process, it is found that the work has not been properly authenticated, the awarding body will set the mark(s) awarded by Caistor Grammar School to zero

Presentation of Work

Subject Teacher

- Obtains informed consent at the beginning of the course from parents/carers if videos or photographs/images of candidates will be included as evidence of participation or contribution
- Instructs candidates to present work as detailed in NEA unless the awarding body's specification gives different subject-specific instructions
- Instructs candidates to add their candidate number, centre number and the component code of the assessment as a header/footer on each page of their work

Keeping Materials Secure

Subject Teacher

- When work is being undertaken by candidates under formal supervision, ensures work is securely stored between sessions (if more than one session)
- When work is submitted by candidates for final assessment, ensures work is securely stored
- Follows secure storage instructions as defined in NEA 4.8
- Takes sensible precautions when work is taken home for marking
- Stores internally assessed work, including the sample returned after awarding body moderation, securely until all possible post-results services have been exhausted
- If post-results services have not been requested, returns internally assessed work to candidates (if requested by a candidate) after the deadline for requesting a review of results for the relevant series
- If post-results services have been requested, returns internally assessed work to candidates (if requested by a candidate) once the review of results and any subsequent appeal has been completed
- Reminds candidates of the need to keep their own work secure at all times and not share completed or partially completed work on-line, on social media or through any other means (Reminds candidates of the contents of the JCQ document Information for candidates – Social Media)
- Where work is stored electronically, liaises with the IT Manager to ensure the protection and back-up of candidates' work and that appropriate arrangements are in place to restrict access to it between sessions

- Understands that during the period from the submission of work for formal assessment until the deadline for requesting a review of results, copies of work may be used for other purposes, provided that the originals are stored securely as required

IT Manager

- Ensures appropriate arrangements are in place to restrict access between sessions to candidates' work where work is stored electronically
- Restricts access to this material and utilises appropriate security safeguards such as firewall protection and virus scanning software
- Employs an effective back-up strategy so that an up-to-date archive of candidates' evidence is maintained
- Considers encrypting any sensitive digital media to ensure the security of the data stored within it and refers to awarding body guidance to ensure that the method of encryption is suitable
-

Task Marking – Externally Assessed Components

Conduct of Externally Assessed Work

Subject Teacher

- Liaises with the exams officer regarding the arrangements for any externally assessed components of a specification which must be conducted within a window of dates specified by the awarding body and according to JCQ Instructions for conducting examinations
- Liaises with the Visiting Examiner where this may be applicable to any externally assessed component

Exams Officer

- Arranges timetabling, rooming and invigilation where and if this is applicable to any externally assessed non-examination component of a specification
- Conducts the externally assessed component within the window specified by the awarding body and according to JCQ Instructions for conducting examinations

Submission of Work

Subject Teacher

- Provides the attendance register to a Visiting Examiner

Exams Officer

- Provides the attendance register to the subject teacher where the component may be assessed by a Visiting Examiner
- Ensures the awarding body's attendance register for any externally assessed component is completed correctly to show candidates who are present and any who may be absent
- Where candidates' work must be despatched to an awarding body's examiner, ensures the completed attendance register accompanies the work
- Keeps a copy of the attendance register until after the deadline for reviews of results for the exam series
- Packages the work as required by the awarding body and attaches the examiner address label
- Ensures that the package in which the work is despatched is robust and securely fastened
- Despatches the work to the awarding body's instructions by the required deadline

Task Marking – Internally Assessed Components

Marking and Annotation

Head of Centre

- Ensures where a teacher is teaching, preparing and assessing a candidate with whom they have a close relationship e.g. members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) a conflict of interest is declared to the awarding body and the marked work of the child submitted for moderation, whether it is part of the moderation sample or not

Subject Head/Lead

- Sets timescales for teachers to inform candidates of their centre-assessed marks that will allow sufficient time for a candidate to appeal an internal assessment decision/request a review of Caistor Grammar Schools marking prior to the marks being submitted to the awarding body external deadline

Subject Teacher

- Accesses awarding body training / updates as required to ensure familiarity with the mark scheme/marketing process
- Marks candidates' work in accordance with the marking criteria provided by the awarding body
- Annotates candidates' work as required to facilitate internal standardisation of marking and enable external moderation to check that marking is in line with the assessment criteria
- Informs candidates of their marks which could be subject to change by the awarding body moderation process; see NEA Procedure
- Ensures candidates are informed to the timescale set by the subject lead or as indicated in Caistor Grammar Schools *internal appeals procedure* to enable an internal appeal/request for a review of marking to be submitted by a candidate and the outcome known before final marks are submitted to the awarding body

Internal Standardisation

Subject Head/Lead

- Ensures that internal standardisation of marks across assessors and teaching groups takes place as required and to sequence
- Supports staff not familiar with the mark scheme (e.g. NQTs, supply staff etc.)
- Ensures accurate internal standardisation - for example by
 - obtaining reference materials at an early stage in the course
 - holding a preliminary trial marking session prior to marking
 - carrying out further trial marking at appropriate points during the marking period
 - after most marking has been completed, holds a further meeting to make final adjustments
 - making final adjustments to marks prior to submission retaining work and evidence of standardisation
- Retains evidence that internal standardisation has been carried out

Subject Teacher

- Indicates on work (or cover sheet) the date of marking
- Marks to common standards
- Keeps candidates work secure until after the closing date for review of results for the series concerned or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later

Submission of Marks and Work for Moderation

Subject Teacher

- Submits the requested samples of candidates' work to the Exams Officer
- Ensures that where a candidate's work has been facilitated by a scribe or practical assistant, the relevant completed cover sheet is securely attached to the front of the work and sent to the moderator in addition to the sample requested
- Ensures the moderator is provided with authentication of candidates' work, confirmation that internal standardisation has been undertaken and any other subject-specific information where this may be required
- Submits any supporting documentation required by the awarding body/provides the exams officer with any supporting documentation required by the awarding body

Exams Officer

- Inputs and submits marks online, via the awarding body secure extranet site, keeping a record of the marks submitted, to the external deadline/Confirms with subject teachers that marks have been submitted to the awarding body deadline
- Where responsible for marks input, ensures checks are made that marks for any additional candidates are submitted and ensures mark input is checked before submission to avoid transcription errors
- Submits the requested samples of candidates' work to the moderator by the awarding body deadline, keeping a record of the work submitted/Confirms with Subject teacher that the moderation sample has been submitted to the awarding body deadline
- Ensures that for postal moderation
 - work is dispatched in packaging provided by the awarding body
 - moderator label(s) provided by the awarding body are affixed to the packaging
 - proof of dispatch is obtained and kept on file until the successful issue of final results
- Through the subject teacher, ensures the moderator is provided with authentication of candidates' work, confirmation that internal standardisation has been undertaken and any other subject-specific information where this may be required
- Through the subject teacher, submits any supporting documentation required by the awarding body

Storage and Retention of Work After Submission of Marks

Subject Teacher

- Keeps a record of names and candidate numbers for candidates whose work was included in the moderation sample
- Retains all marked candidates' work (including any sample returned after moderation) under secure conditions for the required retention period
- In liaison with the IT Manager, takes steps to protect any work stored electronically from corruption and has a back-up procedure in place
- If retention is a problem because of the nature of the work, retains some form of evidence such as photos, audio or media recordings

Exams Officer

- Ensures any sample returned after moderation is logged and returned to the subject teacher for secure storage and required retention

External Moderation – The Process

Subject Teacher

- Ensures that awarding body or its moderator receive the correct samples of candidates' work
- Where relevant, liaises with the awarding body/moderator where the moderator visits Caistor Grammar School to mark the sample of work
- Complies with any request from the moderator for remaining work or further evidence of Caistor Grammar Schools marking

External Moderation – Feedback

Subject Head/Lead

- Checks the final moderated marks when issued to Caistor Grammar School when the results are published
- Checks moderator reports and ensures that any remedial action, if necessary, is undertaken before the next exam series

Exams Officer

- Accesses or signposts moderator reports to relevant staff
- Takes remedial action, if necessary, where feedback may relate to Caistor Grammar School administration

Access arrangements

Subject Teacher

- Works with the SENCo to ensure any access arrangements for eligible candidates are applied to assessments

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)

- Follows the regulations and guidance in the JCQ publication Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments in relation to non-examination assessments including Reasonable Adjustments for GCE A-level sciences – Endorsement of practical skills
- Where arrangements do not undermine the integrity of the qualification and is the candidate's normal way of working, will ensure access arrangements are in place and awarding body approval, where required, has been obtained prior to assessments taking place
- Makes subject teachers aware of any access arrangements for eligible candidates which need to be applied to assessments
- Works with subject teachers to ensure requirements for access arrangement candidates requiring the support of a facilitator in assessments are met
- Ensures that staff acting as an access arrangement facilitator are fully trained in their role

Special Consideration and Loss of Work

Subject Teacher

- Understands that a candidate may be eligible for special consideration in assessments in certain situations where a candidate is absent and/or produces a reduced quantity of work

- Liaises with the exams officer when special consideration may need to be applied for a candidate taking assessments
- Liaises with the exams officer to report loss of work to the awarding body

Exams Officer

- Refers to/directs relevant staff to the JCQ publication A guide to the special consideration process
 - Where a candidate is eligible, submits an application for special consideration via the awarding body's secure extranet site to the prescribed timescale
 - Where application for special consideration via the awarding body's secure extranet site is not applicable, submits the required form to the awarding body to the prescribed timescale
 - Keeps required evidence on file to support the application
- Refers to/directs relevant staff where applicable to Form 15 – JCQ/LCW and where applicable submits to the relevant awarding body

Malpractice

Head of Centre

- Understands the responsibility to immediately report to the relevant awarding body any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice involving candidates, teachers, invigilators or other administrative staff
- Is familiar with the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments: Policies and Procedures
- Ensures that those members of teaching staff involved in the direct supervision of candidates producing non-examination assessment are aware of the potential for malpractice and ensures that teaching staff are reminded that failure to report allegations of malpractice or suspected malpractice constitutes malpractice in itself

Subject Teacher

- Is aware of the JCQ Notice to Centres - Sharing NEA material and candidates' work to mitigate against candidate and centre malpractice
- Ensures candidates understand what constitutes malpractice in non-examination assessments
- Ensures candidates understand the JCQ document Information for candidates - non-examination assessments
- Ensures candidates understand the JCQ document Information for candidates - Social Media
- Escalates and reports any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice involving candidates to the head of centre

Exams Officer

- Signposts the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments: Policies and Procedures to the head of centre
- Signposts the JCQ Notice to Centres - Sharing NEA material and candidates' work to subject heads
- Signposts candidates to the relevant JCQ information for candidates documents
- Where required, supports the head of centre in investigating and reporting incidents of alleged, suspected or actual malpractice

The use of AI within the NEA process

AI use refers to the use of AI tools to obtain information and content which might be used in work produced for assessments which lead towards qualifications. AI chatbots are AI tools which generate text in response to user prompts and questions. Users can ask follow-up questions or ask the chatbot to revise the responses already provided. AI chatbots respond to prompts based upon patterns in the data sets (large language model) upon which they have been trained. They generate responses which are statistically likely to be relevant and appropriate.

Examples of AI misuse include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Copying or paraphrasing sections of AI-generated content so that the work is no longer the student's own
- Copying or paraphrasing whole responses of AI-generated content
- Using AI to complete parts of the assessment so that the work does not reflect the student's own work, analysis, evaluation or calculations
- Failing to acknowledge use of AI tools when they have been used as a source of information
- Incomplete or poor acknowledgement of AI tools
- Submitting work with intentionally incomplete or misleading references or bibliographies.

While the potential for student artificial intelligence (AI) misuse is new, most of the ways to prevent its misuse and mitigate the associated risks are not; centres will already have established measures in place to ensure that students are aware of the importance of submitting their own independent work for assessment and for identifying potential malpractice. The guidance from JCQ emphasises the following requirements:

- As has always been the case, and in accordance with section 5.3(j) of the JCQ General Regulations for Approved Centres (<https://www.jcq.org.uk/examsoffice/general-regulations/>), all work submitted for qualification assessments must be the students' own;
- Students who misuse AI such that the work they submit for assessment is not their own will have committed malpractice, in accordance with JCQ regulations, and may attract severe sanctions;
- Students and centre staff must be aware of the risks of using AI and must be clear on what constitutes malpractice;
- Students must make sure that work submitted for assessment is demonstrably their own. If any sections of their work are reproduced directly from AI generated responses, those elements must be identified by the

student and they must understand that this will not allow them to demonstrate that they have independently met the marking criteria and therefore will not be rewarded (please see the Acknowledging AI Use section below);

- Teachers and assessors must only accept work for assessment which they consider to be the students' own (in accordance with section 5.3(j) of the JCQ General Regulations for Approved Centres); and
- Where teachers have doubts about the authenticity of student work submitted for assessment (for example, they suspect that parts of it have been generated by AI but this has not been acknowledged), they must investigate and take appropriate action.

Teachers, assessors and other staff must discuss the use of AI and agree their approach to managing students' use of AI at CGS. CGS will make students aware of the appropriate and inappropriate use of AI, the risks of using AI, and the possible consequences of using AI inappropriately in a qualification assessment. We will also make students aware of CGS's approach to plagiarism and the consequences of malpractice. CGS will communicate with parents to make them aware of the risks and issues and ensure they support CGS's approach. CGS will do the following:

- a) Explain the importance of students submitting their own independent work (a result of their own efforts, independent research, etc) for assessments and stress to them and to their parents/carers the risks of malpractice;
- b) Ensure the centre's malpractice/plagiarism policy includes clear guidance on how students should reference appropriately (including websites);
- c) Ensure that CGS's malpractice/plagiarism policy includes clear guidance on how students should acknowledge any use of AI to avoid misuse (see the below section on acknowledging AI use);
- d) Ensure that teachers and assessors are familiar with AI tools, their risks and AI detection tools (see the What is AI use and what are the risks of using it in assessments? and What is AI misuse? sections);
- e) Determine whether students should be required to sign a declaration that they have understood what AI misuse is;
- f) Ensure that each student is issued with a copy of, and understands, the appropriate JCQ Information for Candidates (www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents);
- g) Reinforce to students the significance of their (electronic) declaration where they confirm the work they're submitting is their own, the consequences of a false declaration, and that they have understood and followed the requirements for the subject; and
- h) Remind students that awarding organisation staff, examiners and moderators have established procedures for reporting and investigating malpractice.

Post-Results Services

Head of Centre

- Is familiar with the JCQ publication Post-Results Services
- Ensures Caistor Grammar Schools *internal appeals procedures* clearly detail the procedure to be followed by candidates (or their parents/carers) appealing against a Caistor Grammar Schools decision not to support a review of results or an appeal

Subject Head/Lead

- Provides relevant support to subject teachers making decisions about reviews of results

Subject Teacher

- Provides advice and guidance to candidates on their results and the post-results services available
- Provides the exams officer with the original sample or relevant sample of candidates' work that may be required for a review of moderation to the internal deadline

Exams Officer

- Is aware of the individual post-results services available for externally assessed and internally assessed components of non-examination assessments as detailed in the JCQ publication Post-Results Services(Information and guidance to centres...)
- Provides/signposts relevant school staff and candidates to post-results services information
- Ensures any requests for post-results services that are available to non-examination assessments are submitted online via the awarding body secure extranet site to deadline

Practical Skills Endorsement for the A Level Sciences Designed for Use in England

Head of Centre

- Returns an online 'Head of Centre declaration' at the time of the National Centre Number Register annual update confirming that all reasonable steps have been or will be taken to ensure that all candidates at Caistor Grammar School have had, or will have, the opportunity to undertake the prescribed practical activities
- Ensures new lead teachers undertake the required training provided by the awarding body on the implementation of the practical endorsement
- Ensures relevant school staff liaise with all relevant parties in relation to arrangements for and conduct of the monitoring visit

Subject Head/Lead

- Ensures the appropriate arrangements are in place for implementing the requirements of the practical endorsement appropriately and applying the assessment criteria correctly
- Confirms understanding of the *Practical Skills Endorsement for the A Level Sciences designed for use in England* and ensures any relevant JCQ/awarding body instructions are followed
- Ensures where Caistor Grammar School intends to enter candidates for the first time for one or more of the A level subjects, the relevant awarding body will be contacted at the beginning of the course
- Undertakes any training provided by the awarding body on the implementation of the practical endorsement
- Disseminates information to subject teachers ensuring the standards can be applied appropriately
- Liaises with all relevant parties in relation to arrangements for and conduct of a monitoring visit

Subject Teacher

- Ensures all the JCQ/awarding body requirements/instructions in relation to the endorsement are known, understood and followed
- Ensures the required arrangements for practical activities are in place
- Provides all the required centre records
- Ensures candidates provide the required records
- Provides any required information to the subject lead regarding the monitoring visit
- Assesses candidates using Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC)
- Applies for an exemption where a candidate cannot access the practical endorsement due to a substantial impairment
- Follows the awarding body's instructions for the submission of candidates *Pass* or *Not Classified* assessment outcome/provides assessment outcomes to the exams officer to the internal deadline

Exams Officer

- Accepts contact with the monitor and passes information to the subject lead for a visit to be arranged with at least two weeks notice
- Confirms with the subject teacher that assessment outcomes have been submitted to the awarding body to the external deadline/Follows the awarding body's instructions for the submission of candidates *Pass or Not Classified* assessment outcome

Spoken Language Endorsement for GCSE English Language specifications designed for use in England

Head of Centre

- Returns an online 'Head of Centre declaration' at the time of the National Centre Number Register annual update, confirming that all reasonable steps have been or will be taken to ensure that all candidates at Caistor Grammar School have had, or will have, the opportunity to undertake the Spoken Language endorsement

Subject Head/Lead

- Ensures the appropriate arrangements are in place for internal standardisation of assessments
- Confirms understanding of the *Spoken Language Endorsement for GCSE English Language specifications designed for use in England* and ensures any relevant JCQ/awarding body instructions are followed
- Ensures the required task setting and task taking instructions are followed by subject teachers
- Ensures subject teachers assess candidates, either live or from recordings, using the common assessment criteria
- Ensures for monitoring purposes, audio-visual recordings of the presentations of a sample of candidates are provided

Subject Teacher

- Ensures all the requirements in relation to the endorsement are known and understood
- Follows the required task setting and task taking instructions
- Assesses candidates, either live or from recordings, using the common assessment criteria
- Provides audio-visual recordings of the presentations of a sample of candidates for monitoring purposes
- Follows the awarding body's instructions for the submission of grades (*Pass, Merit, Distinction or Not Classified*) and the storage and submission of recordings

Exams Officer

- Follows the awarding body's instructions for the submission of grades and recordings

Management of issues and potential risks associated with non-examination assessments

Issue/Risk	Caistor Grammar School actions to manage issue/mitigate risk	Action by
CGS staff malpractice	<i>Records confirm that relevant school staff are familiar with and follow:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>the current JCQ publication Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments</i>	HoC

Issue/Risk	Caistor Grammar School actions to manage issue/mitigate risk	Action by
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the JCQ document Notice to Centres - Sharing NEA material and candidates' work - http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessments 	
Candidate malpractice	<p>Records confirm that candidates are informed and understand they must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> submit work which is not their own make available their work to other candidates through any medium allow other candidates to have access to their own independently sourced material assist other candidates to produce work use books, the internet or other sources without acknowledgement or attribution submit work that has been word processed by a third party without acknowledgement include inappropriate, offensive or obscene material <p>Records confirm that candidates have been made aware of the JCQ documents Information for candidates - non-examination assessments and Information for candidates – Social Media - https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents and understand they must not post their work on social media</p>	EO
Task setting		
Awarding body set task: IT failure/corruption of task details where set task details accessed from the awarding body online	<p>Awarding body key date for accessing/downloading set task noted prior to start of course</p> <p>IT systems checked prior to key date</p> <p>Alternative IT system used to gain access</p> <p>Awarding body contacted to request direct email of task details</p>	EO / Teaching Staff
Centre set task: Subject teacher fails to meet the assessment criteria as detailed in the specification	<p>Ensures that subject teachers access awarding body training information, practice materials etc.</p> <p>Records confirmation that subject teachers understand the task setting arrangements as defined in the awarding body's specification</p> <p>Samples assessment criteria in the centre set task</p>	Head of Dept / Dir of Studies
Candidates do not understand the marking criteria and what they need to do to gain credit	<p>A simplified version of the awarding body's marking criteria described in the specification that is not specific to the work of an individual candidate or group of candidates is produced for candidates</p> <p>Records confirm all candidates understand the marking criteria</p> <p>Candidates confirm/record they understand the marking criteria</p>	Teaching Staff
Subject teacher long term absence during the task setting stage	<p>See CGS's exam contingency plan - Teaching staff extended absence at key points in the exam cycle</p>	
Issuing of tasks		
Awarding body set task not issued to candidates on time	<p>Awarding body key date for accessing set task as detailed in the specification noted prior to start of course</p> <p>Course information issued to candidates contains details when set task will be issued and needs to be completed by</p> <p>Set task accessed well in advance to allow time for planning, resourcing and teaching</p>	HoC
The wrong task is given to candidates	<p>Ensures course planning and information taken from the awarding body's specification confirms the correct task will be issued to candidates</p> <p>Awarding body guidance sought where this issue remains unresolved</p>	HoC
Subject teacher long term absence during the issuing of tasks stage	<p>See CGS's exam contingency plan - Teaching staff extended absence at key points in the exam cycle</p>	
A candidate (or parent/carer) expresses concern about safeguarding, confidentiality or faith in undertaking a task such as a presentation that may be recorded	<p>Ensures the candidate's presentation does not form part of the sample which will be recorded</p> <p>Contacts the awarding body at the earliest opportunity where unable to record the required number of candidates for the monitoring sample</p>	EO / HoC
Task taking		
Supervision		

Issue/Risk	Caistor Grammar School actions to manage issue/mitigate risk	Action by
Planned assessments clash with other CGS or candidate activities	<i>Assessment plan identified for the start of the course Assessment dates/periods included in CGS wide calendar</i>	SLT
Rooms or facilities inadequate for candidates to take tasks under appropriate supervision	<i>Timetabling organised to allocate appropriate rooms and IT facilities for the start of the course Staggered sessions arranged where IT facilities insufficient for number of candidates Whole cohort to undertake written task in large exam venue at the same time (exam conditions do not apply)</i>	EO / SLT
Insufficient supervision of candidates to enable work to be authenticated	<i>Confirm subject teachers are aware of and follow the current JCQ publication Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments and any other specific instructions detailed in the awarding body's specification in relation to the supervision of candidates Confirm subject teachers understand their role and responsibilities as detailed in the CGS's non-examination assessment policy</i>	HoC / Dir of Studies
A candidate is suspected of malpractice prior to submitting their work for assessment	<i>Instructions and processes in the current JCQ publication Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (section 9 Malpractice) are followed An internal investigation and where appropriate internal disciplinary procedures are followed</i>	EO / HoC
Access arrangements were not put in place for an assessment where a candidate is approved for arrangements	<i>Relevant staff are signposted to the JCQ publication A guide to the special consideration process (section 2), to determine the process to be followed to apply for special consideration for the candidate</i>	EO / HoC
Advice and feedback		
Candidate claims appropriate advice and feedback not given by subject teacher prior to starting on their work	<i>Ensures a CGS wide process is in place for subject teachers to record all information provided to candidates before work begins as part of CGS's quality assurance procedures Regular monitoring of subject teacher completed records and sign-off to confirm monitoring activity Full records kept detailing all information and advice given to candidates prior to starting on their work as appropriate to the subject and component Candidate confirms/records advice and feedback given prior to starting on their work</i>	HoC / Chair of Gov
Candidate claims no advice and feedback given by subject teacher during the task-taking stage	<i>Ensures a CGS wide process is in place for subject teachers to record all advice and feedback provided to candidates during the task-taking stage as part of the CGS's quality assurance procedures Regular monitoring of subject teacher completed records and sign-off to confirm monitoring activity Full records kept detailing all advice and feedback given to candidates during the task-taking stage as appropriate to the subject and component Candidate confirms/records advice and feedback given during the task-taking stage</i>	HoC / Chair of Gov
A third party claims that assistance was given to candidates by the subject teacher over and above that allowed in the regulations and specification	<i>An investigation is conducted; candidates and subject teacher are interviewed and statements recorded where relevant Records as detailed above are provided to confirm all assistance given Where appropriate, a suspected malpractice report is submitted to the awarding body</i>	EO / HoC
Candidate does not reference information from published source	<i>Candidate is advised at a general level to reference information before work is submitted for formal assessment Candidate is again referred to the JCQ document Information for candidates: non-examination assessments Candidate's detailed record of his/her own research, planning, resources etc. is regularly checked to ensure continued completion</i>	Teaching Staff
Candidate does not set out references as required	<i>Candidate is advised at a general level to review and re-draft the set out of references before work is submitted for formal assessment Candidate is again referred to the JCQ document Information for candidates: non-examination assessments Candidate's detailed record of his/her own research, planning, resources etc. is regularly checked to ensure continued completion</i>	Teaching Staff
Candidate joins the course late after formally supervised task taking has started	<i>A separate supervised session(s) is arranged for the candidate to catch up</i>	Teaching Staff

Issue/Risk	Caistor Grammar School actions to manage issue/mitigate risk	Action by
Candidate moves to another centre during the course	<i>Awarding body guidance is sought to determine what can be done depending on the stage at which the move takes place</i>	EO
An excluded pupil wants to complete his/her non-examination assessment(s)	<i>The awarding body specification is checked to determine if the specification is available to a candidate outside mainstream education If so, arrangements for supervision, authentication and marking are made separately for the candidate</i>	Teaching Staff / EO / HoC
Resources		
A candidate augments notes and resources between formally supervised sessions	<i>Preparatory notes and the work to be assessed are collected in and kept secure between formally supervised sessions Where memory sticks are used by candidates, these are collected in and kept secure between formally supervised sessions Where work is stored on CGS network, access for candidates is restricted between formally supervised sessions</i>	Teaching staff / Head of IT
A candidate fails to acknowledge sources on work that is submitted for assessment	<i>Candidate's detailed record of his/her own research, planning, resources etc. is checked to confirm all the sources used, including books, websites and audio/visual resources Awarding body guidance is sought on whether the work of the candidate should be marked where candidate's detailed records acknowledges sources appropriately Where confirmation is unavailable from candidate's records, awarding body guidance is sought and/or a mark of zero is submitted to the awarding body for the candidate</i>	Teaching Staff
Word and time limits		
A candidate is penalised by the awarding body for exceeding word or time limits	<i>Records confirm the awarding body specification has been checked to determine if word or time limits are mandatory Where limits are for guidance only, candidates are discouraged from exceeding them Candidates confirm/record any information provided to them on word or time limits is known and understood</i>	Teaching Staff
Collaboration and group work		
Candidates have worked in groups where the awarding body specification states this is not permitted	<i>Records confirm the awarding body specification has been checked to determine if group work is permitted Awarding body guidance sought where this issue remains unresolved</i>	EO / HoC
Authentication procedures		
A teacher has doubts about the authenticity of the work submitted by a candidate for internal assessment Candidate plagiarises other material	<i>Records confirm subject staff have been made aware of the JCQ document Teachers sharing assessment material and candidates' work Records confirm that candidates have been issued with the current JCQ document Information for candidates: non-examination assessments Candidates confirm/record that they understand what they need to do to comply with the regulations for non-examination assessments as outlined in the JCQ document Information for candidates: non-examination assessments The candidate's work is not accepted for assessment A mark of zero is recorded and submitted to the awarding body</i>	EO / HoC
Candidate does not sign their authentication statement/declaration	<i>Records confirm that candidates have been issued with the current JCQ document Information for candidates: non-examination assessments Candidates confirm/record they understand what they need to do to comply with the regulations as outlined in the JCQ document Information for candidates: non-examination assessments Declaration is checked for signature before accepting the work of a candidate for formal assessment</i>	Teaching Staff / EO
Subject teacher not available to sign authentication forms	<i>Ensures a CGS wide process is in place for subject teachers to sign authentication forms at the point of marking candidates work as part of CGS's quality assurance procedures</i>	EO / Head of Dept /Director of Studies
Presentation of work		
Candidate does not fully complete the awarding body's cover sheet that is attached to their worked submitted for formal assessment	<i>Cover sheet is checked to ensure it is fully completed before accepting the work of a candidate for formal assessment</i>	Teaching Staff / EO
Keeping materials secure		

Issue/Risk	Caistor Grammar School actions to manage issue/mitigate risk	Action by
Candidates work between formal supervised sessions is not securely stored	<i>Records confirm subject teachers are aware of and follow current JCQ publication Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments Regular monitoring/internal audit ensures subject teacher use of appropriate secure storage</i>	Teaching Staff
Adequate secure storage not available to subject teacher	<i>Records confirm adequate/sufficient secure storage is available to subject teacher prior to the start of the course Alternative secure storage sourced where required</i>	SLT
Candidates work produced electronically is not securely stored	<i>Records confirm subject teachers are aware of and follow current JCQ publication Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments Internal processes and regular monitoring/internal audit by IT Manager ensures:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>access to this material is restricted by passwords only accessed by teaching staff</i> • <i>appropriate security safeguards are in place (insert names/types of protection)</i> • <i>an effective back-up strategy is employed so that an up-to-date archive of candidates' evidence is maintained (insert details of how work is backed up)</i> • <i>any sensitive digital media is encrypted (according to awarding body guidance to ensure that the method of encryption is suitable) to ensure the security of the data stored within it (insert relevant details of how)</i> 	Teaching staff / Head of IT
Task marking – externally assessed components		
A candidate is absent on the day of the examiner visit for an acceptable reason	<i>Awarding body guidance is sought to determine if alternative assessment arrangements can be made for the candidate If not, eligibility for special consideration is explored and a request submitted to the awarding body where appropriate</i>	EO / Teaching Staff
A candidate is absent on the day of the examiner visit for an unacceptable reason	<i>The candidate is marked absent on the attendance register</i>	EO / Teaching Staff O
Task marking – internally assessed components		
A candidate submits little or no work	<i>Where a candidate submits no work, the candidate is recorded as absent when marks are submitted to the awarding body Where a candidate submits little work, the work produced is assessed against the assessment criteria and a mark allocated appropriately; where the work does not meet any of the assessment criteria a mark of zero is submitted to the awarding body</i>	EO / Teaching Staff
A candidate is unable to finish their work for unforeseen reason	<i>Relevant staff are signposted to the JCQ publication A guide to the special consideration process (section 5), to determine eligibility and the process to be followed for shortfall in work</i>	EO / Teaching Staff
The work of a candidate is lost or damaged	<i>Relevant staff are signposted to the JCQ publication Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (section 8), to determine eligibility and the process to be followed for lost or damaged work</i>	EO / Teaching Staff
Candidate malpractice is discovered	<i>Instructions and processes in the current JCQ publication Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (section 9 Malpractice) are followed Investigation and reporting procedures in the current JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice Policies and Procedures are followed Appropriate internal disciplinary procedures are also followed</i>	EO / HoC
A teacher marks the work of marks the work of a candidate with whom they have a close relationship e.g. members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter)	<i>A conflict of interest is declared by informing the awarding body that a teacher is preparing teaching said child at the start of the course Marked work of said child is submitted for moderation whether part of the sample requested or not</i>	EO / HoC
An extension to the deadline for submission of marks is required for a legitimate reason	<i>Awarding body is contacted to determine if an extension can be granted Relevant staff are signposted to the JCQ publication A guide to the special consideration process (section 5), to determine eligibility and the process to be followed for non-examination assessment extension</i>	EO

Issue/Risk	Caistor Grammar School actions to manage issue/mitigate risk	Action by
After submission of marks, it is discovered that the wrong task was given to candidates	<i>Awarding body is contacted for guidance Relevant staff are signposted to the JCQ publication A guide to the special consideration process (section 2), to determine eligibility and the process to be followed to apply for special consideration for candidates</i>	EO
A candidate wishes to appeal/request a review of the marks awarded for their work by their teacher	<i>Candidates are informed of the marks they have been awarded for their work prior to the marks being submitted to the awarding body Records confirm candidates have been informed of their marks Candidates are informed that these marks are subject to change through the awarding body's moderation process Candidates are informed of their marks to the timescale identified in CGS's internal appeals procedure and prior to the internal deadline set by the exams officer for the submission of marks Candidates are made aware of CGS's internal appeals procedures and timescale for submitting an appeal/request for a review of CGS's marking prior to the submission of marks to the awarding body</i>	EO
Deadline for submitting work for formal assessment not met by candidate	<i>Records confirm deadlines given and understood by candidates at the start of the course Candidates confirm/record deadlines known and understood Depending on the circumstances, awarding body guidance sought to determine if the work can be accepted late for marking providing the awarding body's deadline for submitting marks can be met Decision made (depending on the circumstances) if the work will be accepted late for marking or a mark of zero submitted to the awarding body for the candidate</i>	Teaching Staff
Deadline for submitting marks and samples of candidates work ignored by subject teacher	<i>Internal/external deadlines are published at the start of each academic year Reminders are issued through senior leaders/subject heads as deadlines approach Records confirm deadlines known and understood by subject teachers Where appropriate, internal disciplinary procedures are followed</i>	SLT / HoC
Subject teacher long term absence during the marking period	<i>See CGS's exam contingency plan (Teaching staff extended absence at key points in the exam cycle)</i>	

Emergency Evacuation Policy & Procedure (Exams)

2025/2026

Purpose of the Policy

This policy details how Caistor Grammar School deals with an emergency evacuation of the exam room(s) by defining staff roles and responsibilities and confirming the emergency evacuation procedure.

When is an Emergency Evacuation Required?

An emergency evacuation is required where it is unsafe for candidates to remain in the exam room. This might include a fire in the exam room, the fire alarm sounding to warn of fire, bomb alert or other serious threat.

In exceptional situations, where candidates might be severely disadvantaged or distressed by remaining in the exam room, the emergency evacuation procedure may also need to be followed. This might include situations where there is severe disruption in the exam room, serious illness of a candidate or invigilator or similarly serious incidents.

As each incident may be different, advice will be sought from the relevant awarding body as soon as it is safe to do so, particularly where the centre is concerned about the security of the examination(s). (ICE 25.4)

Where candidates are unable to return to the building to complete the examination, the relevant awarding body will be contacted immediately for advice. The awarding bodies have procedures in place to ensure that candidates are not disadvantaged where they are unable to complete the examination due to circumstances beyond their control. (ICE 24.5)

Emergency Evacuation of an Exam Room

Roles and Responsibilities

Head of Centre

- Ensures the emergency evacuation policy for exams is fit for purpose and complies with relevant health and safety regulation
- Ensures any instructions from relevant local or national agencies are referenced and followed where applicable, including information from the National Counter Terrorism Security Office on the *Procedures for handling bomb threats* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bomb-threats-guidance/procedures-for-handling-bomb-threats>
- Where safe to do so, ensures candidates are given the opportunity to sit exams for their published duration

Senior Leader

- Where responsible for the Caistor Grammar School emergency evacuation procedure, ensures all staff and appointed fire marshals are aware of the policy and procedures to be followed when an emergency evacuation of an exam room is required

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)

- Ensures appropriate arrangements are in place for the emergency evacuation of a disabled candidate from an exam room where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for the candidate
- Ensures the candidate is informed prior to taking their exams of what will happen in the event of an emergency evacuation

Exams Officer

- Ensures invigilators are trained in emergency evacuation procedures and how an incident and actions taken must be recorded
- Ensures candidates are briefed, via exam assemblies and the Exam handbook, prior to exams taking place, on what will happen in the event of an emergency in the exam room

- Provides invigilators with a copy of the emergency evacuation procedure for every exam room
- Provides a standard invigilator announcement for each exam room which includes appropriate instructions for candidates about emergency procedures and what will happen if the fire alarm sounds
- Provides an exam room incident log in each exam room
- Liaises with the SENCo and other relevant staff prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- Briefs invigilators prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- Ensures appropriate follow-up is undertaken after an emergency evacuation reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken through the *special consideration* process where applicable (in cases where a group of candidates have been disadvantaged by a particular event)

Invigilators

- By attending training and/or update sessions, ensure they understand what to do in the event of an emergency in the exam room
- Follow the actions required in the emergency evacuation procedure issued to them for every exam room
- Confirm with the exams officer, where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate they are invigilating
- Record details on the exam room incident log to support follow-up reporting to the awarding body by the exams officer (see below)

Other Relevant Centre Staff

- Support the Senior Leader, SENCo, Exams Officer and Invigilators in ensuring the safe emergency evacuation of exam rooms

Recording Details

As soon as practically possible and safe to do so, details should be recorded. Details must include:

- the actual time of the start of the interruption
- the actions taken
- the actual time the exam(s) resumed
- the actual finishing time(s) of the resumed exam(s)

Further Details could include:

- report on candidate behaviour throughout the interruption/evacuation
- a judgement on the impact on candidates after the interruption/evacuation

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

Invigilators are trained in this procedure and understand the actions they must take in the event of a fire alarm or other emergency that leads to an evacuation of the exam room.

Emergency evacuation procedure
Actions to be taken (as detailed in current JCQ Instructions for conducting examinations section 25, Emergencies)
Stop the candidates from writing, stop one stopwatch and make a note of the time
Read the Evacuation Instructions found in the Exam Room Folder
Collect the attendance register (in order to ensure all candidates are present)
Evacuate the examination room in line with the instructions given by the appropriate authority Take the room radio, switched on to channel 5, leaving the radio on until the exam resumes
Advise candidates to leave all question papers and scripts in the examination room Candidates must be advised to close their answer booklet
Ensure candidates leave the room in silence Candidates from Newbolt will be take to Grove Court open area, from Old Hall, O10 & the Gym to Old Court, from Grove Court to Grove Court open area, from T2 the Tech Building Car Park, 1:1 rooming candidates to go to Old Court to be registered
Ensure candidates are supervised as closely as possible while they are out of the examination room to make sure there is no discussion about the examination, there should be NO TALKING
Make a note of the time of the interruption and how long it lasted
EO will check all muster points either in person or by radio and report in attendance on channel 4 or 6 and await further instructions which will be relayed to invigilators as appropriate
Allow the candidates the remainder of the working time set for the examination once it resumes
All Staff should be made aware of the exam evacuation procedure and also should know that no communication should be made directly to any candidate. All communication should go through the EO or Lead Invigilator
Where possible the candidates will be the first to return once it is safe to do so
If there are only a few candidates, consider the possibility of taking the candidates (with question papers and scripts) to another place to finish the examination (Candidates must be given the opportunity to sit the examination for its published duration)
Make a full report of the incident and of the action taken, and send to the relevant awarding body

Emergency Evacuation Announcements

TO BE READ IN THE EVENT OF AN EVACUATION DURING AN EXAM

- Please put your pens down and close your question paper and/or answer booklet
- Remain silent, you are still under examination conditions and must not communicate in anyway with anyone, this includes school staff. If you need to speak to an invigilator, raise your hand
- You will be under examination conditions until the official end of the examination
- Everyone stand and then as instructed we will leave row by row, do not communicate with anyone as we go to the muster point to be registered

(Take the candidates to the designated muster point for your exam room, if approached by staff ensure they only speak to invigilators and not any of the candidates, monitor them closely ensuring they remain under examination conditions at all times)

AT THE MUSTER POINT

- You will now be registered, remain silent other than to respond to your name
- We will remain here silent until instructed to go back to the exam room
- You will be given the opportunity to complete the exam we have stopped and be given the full amount of time to finish
- Mrs Johnson will inform the Exam Board that your exam has been interrupted

Special Consideration Policy

2025/2026

What is Special Consideration?

Special consideration is a post-examination adjustment to a candidate's mark or grade to reflect temporary illness, temporary injury or some other event outside of the candidate's control at the time of the assessment, which has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a candidate's ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment.

Special consideration can only seek to go some way to assist a candidate affected by a potentially wide range of difficulties, emotional or physical, which may influence performance in examinations. It cannot remove the difficulty faced by the candidate. There will be situations where candidates should not be entered for an examination. Only minor adjustments can be made to the mark awarded because to do more than this would jeopardize the standard of the examination. [JCQ [A guide to the special consideration process](#) section 1]

This document is further referred to in this policy as SC

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to identify roles and responsibilities in the special consideration process and confirms that Caistor Grammar School will... submit any applications for special consideration where candidates meet the published criteria.[JCQ [General regulations for approved centres](#) section 5.9]

Eligibility for Special Consideration

Roles and Responsibilities

Head of Centre

- Is familiar with the contents, refers to and directs relevant Caistor Grammar School staff to the annually updated JCQ publication SC
- Ensures that, where relevant and in eligible situations, applications for special consideration will be submitted to awarding bodies by the exams officer

Exams Officer

- Understands the criteria as detailed in SC to determine where candidates will/will not be eligible for special consideration
- Ensures that, where relevant and in eligible situations, applications for special consideration will be submitted to awarding bodies

Teaching Staff and/or SENCo

- Provide any appropriate evidence or information that may be required to determine a candidate's eligibility for special consideration.

Candidates (or Parents/Carers)

- Provide any medical or other evidence that may be required to determine eligibility for special consideration

Applying for Special Consideration

Where eligible, special consideration will be applied for in a specific exam series where candidates... have been fully prepared and have covered the whole course but performance in the examination, or in the production of controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment, is materially affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control. [SC2]

1. Where a candidate may arrive for an exam and is clearly unwell, extremely distressed and/or may have sustained an injury that requires emergency access arrangements to be put in place:
 - the candidate will be kept comfortable and under supervision from the required time while appropriate arrangements are put in place for the candidate to take the exam in the best possible conditions

- a judgement will be made on how the candidate's situation or disposition affected performance in the exam
 - where appropriate and where eligible, special consideration will be applied for
2. Where candidates may be affected by a major disturbance in the exam room (emergency evacuation etc.), special consideration will be applied for on behalf of all candidates.
 3. Where a candidate takes multiple exams (three or more exams) timetabled for the same day and the total duration for those papers is more than 6 hours for GCE exams or more than 5 hours 30 minutes for GCSE exams including *any approved extra time but not any time taken for supervised rest breaks*, special consideration for an allowance on last paper taken will be applied for.
 4. Where a candidate may be affected by a minor disturbance in the exam room caused by another candidate (momentary bad behaviour, mobile phone ringing etc.), special consideration cannot be applied for.

If a candidate is absent for acceptable reasons, and Caistor Grammar School can support this, special consideration will be applied for if the exam missed is in the terminal series and the *minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence* can be met.

Where other issues or problems affect a candidate or a group of candidates, special consideration will be explored in SC 5 and applied for where eligible. This might include, for example:

- other certification
- **coursework/non-examination assessment extension**
- shortfall in work (coursework/non-examination assessment)
- lost or damaged work (non-examination assessment components)
- candidates taking an incorrect or defective question paper
- candidates undertaking the wrong controlled assessment or non-examination assessment assignment

Processing Applications for Special Consideration

Roles and Responsibilities

Head of Centre

- Ensures that all eligible applications will be supported by signed evidence produced by a member of the senior leadership
- Ensures where a candidate may be a member of the family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friend and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) of a member of exams office staff, the application will be authorised by an alternative member of school staff

Senior Leadership Team

- Produce signed evidence in support of all eligible applications

Exams Officer

- Understands that special consideration must be applied for at the time of the assessment
- Understands that special consideration cannot be applied in a cumulative fashion and that where a candidate may be affected by different indispositions, special consideration should only be applied for the most serious indisposition.
- Ensures applications will be processed as required by the awarding bodies

- Keeps evidence to support all applications on file until after the publication of results and provides the signed evidence provided by a member of the senior leadership to support an application where this may be requested by an awarding body
- Meets the required deadline(s) for submitting applications

Teaching Staff and/or SENCo

- Provide any appropriate evidence or information that may be required to support a candidate's application for special consideration

Candidates (or Parents/Carers)

- Will be asked to provide any required medical or other evidence that may be required to support an application for special consideration
- Will be informed that all cases must be dealt with by the centre

Submitting Applications for Special Consideration

Where a candidate or group of candidates is/are eligible for special consideration, applications will be submitted to the relevant awarding body following the published processes in SC.

Evidence to support applications will be kept on file until after the publication of results.

Timetabled Written Exams

- For GCE and GCSE qualifications, applications for individual candidates will be submitted online by logging into the relevant awarding body secure extranet site and following the links to special consideration
- The processes for submitting a single application to cover all exams *where a candidate is present but disadvantaged* and a separate application for each day *where a candidate is absent from an examination for an acceptable reason* detailed in SC 6 will be followed
- For other qualifications, applications will be submitted online where the awarding body's secure system accepts these
- The paper form 10 **Application for special consideration** will only be completed and submitted to the awarding body where the online system does not accept applications for a particular qualification
- For groups of candidates, applications will be made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts group applications or form 10 will be completed
- The paper form 14 **Self certification form** (Self certification for candidates who have missed an examination) will only be completed by a candidate where circumstances warrant this and will not be used where Caistor Grammar School knows the candidate was ill

Internally assessed work

- Where appropriate, applications will be made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts them or form 10 will be completed and submitted to the awarding body
- Where a short extension to a deadline is being requested, the awarding body will be contacted directly
- Where an application relates to a shortfall in work, this will be submitted online or by completing form 10, dependent on the awarding body

Late applications

If, after the publication of results for a particular exam series, a claim is made that special consideration was not applied for at the time of an assessment where a candidate was eligible, the claimant will be informed that

late applications will only be accepted by an awarding body in the most exceptional circumstances and where a member of the senior leadership team is able to produce evidence to support a late application.

If a claim is made after the completion of a review of results, the claimant will be informed that an application for special consideration **cannot be submitted**.

**WHISTLEBLOWING
POLICY (Exams)
2025/26**

Introduction

Whistleblowing at Caistor Grammar School is encouraged, not penalised, and staff are made aware that they have a duty to report any concerns they have about the conduct of examinations.

The head of centre and governing board at Caistor Grammar School aim to create and maintain an approach to examinations that reflects an ethical culture and encourages staff and students to be aware of and report practices that could compromise the integrity and security of examinations.

In compliance with section 5.11 of the JCQ's **General Regulations for Approved Centres**¹, Caistor Grammar School will:

- take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after assessments have taken place
- inform the awarding body **immediately** of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, by completing the appropriate documentation
- as required by an awarding body, gather evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) in accordance with the JCQ publication **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures**² and provide such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require

This policy requirement has been added within **General Regulations for Approved Centres** in response to the recommendations within the report of the *Independent Commission on Examination Malpractice*³.

This policy sets out the whistleblowing procedures at Caistor Grammar School. It has been produced by Chris Frost who is also a member of the senior leadership team and responsible for handling any cases of whistleblowing. They are fully aware of the contents of this policy and will escalate any instances of malpractice to the relevant awarding body/bodies.

This policy also sets out the principles which allow members of centre staff and students to feel confident in reporting instances of actual, alleged or suspected malpractice to relevant members of senior leadership.

Purpose of the Policy

This policy:

- encourages individuals to raise concerns, which will be fully investigated by appropriately trained and experienced individuals
- identifies how to report concerns
- explains how such concerns will be investigated and sets expectations regarding the reporting of outcomes
- provides details of relevant bodies to whom concerns about wrongdoing can be reported, including awarding organisations and regulators
- includes a commitment to do everything reasonable to protect the reporter's identity, if requested
- sets out how those raising concerns will be supported.

This policy also details the steps that could be taken by an individual involved in the management, administration and/or conducting of examinations if Caistor Grammar School fails to comply with its obligation to report any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration.

The Whistle-blower

A whistle-blower is defined as a person who reports an actual or potential wrongdoing and is protected by the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, providing they are acting in the public interest.

If the person raising the issue is a worker, this will be considered as whistleblowing. This includes agency staff and contractors.

¹ Reference www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/general-regulations/

² Reference www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/

³ Reference www.jcq.org.uk/examination-system/imc-home/

Reporting

If a member of centre staff involved in the management, administration and/or conducting of examinations (such as exams officer, exams assistant or invigilator), a student or a member of the public (such as a parent/carer) has a concern or reason to believe that malpractice has or will occur in an examination or assessment, concerns should normally be raised initially with Chris Frost, Assistant Head.

However, there may be times when it may be more appropriate to refer the issue direct to the governing board, most often when the allegation is against the head of centre.

Examples of malpractice

In addition to the centre wide Whistleblowing Policy, this exams-specific policy, includes reference to exams-related breaches including, but not limited to, the following:

- Failure to comply with exam regulations as set out by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and its awarding bodies
- A security breach of the examination paper
- Conduct of centre staff which undermines the integrity of the examination
- Unfair treatment of candidates by either giving an advantage to a candidate/group of candidates (e.g. by permitting a candidate an access arrangement which is not supported by appropriate evidence), or disadvantaging candidates by not providing access to the appropriate conditions (providing a 'level playing field')
- Possible fraud and corruption (e.g. accessing the exam paper prior to the exam to aid teaching and learning)
- Abuse of authority (e.g. the head of centre/members of the senior leadership team overriding JCQ and awarding body regulations)
- Other conduct which may be interpreted as malpractice/maladministration
-

Whistleblowing procedure

If the individual does not feel safe raising the issue/reporting malpractice within the centre, or they have done so and are concerned that no action has been taken, that individual could consider making their disclosure⁴ to a malpractice expert at the awarding body for the qualification where malpractice is suspected.

For members of centre staff, it is likely that the Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA)⁵ offers you legal protection from being dismissed or penalised for raising certain serious concerns ('blowing the whistle'). Whistleblowing rights under PIDA are day one rights⁶. This means that the worker does not need the same two years' service that is needed for other employment rights.

In order to investigate concerns effectively, the awarding body should be provided with as much information as possible/is relevant, which may include:

- The qualifications and subjects involved
- The centre involved
- The names of staff/candidates involved
- The regulations breached/specific nature of suspected malpractice
- When and where the suspected malpractice occurred
- Whether multiple examination series are affected
- If the issue has been reported to the centre and what the outcome was
- How the issue became apparent
- Members of the public are not protected by PIDA, but the awarding body will make every effort to protect their identity if that is what they wish, unless the awarding body is legally obliged to release it⁷.

Alternatively, a worker could consider making a disclosure to Ofqual⁸ as a prescribed body for whistleblowing to raise a concern about wrongdoing, risk or malpractice.

⁴ Reference www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/public-interest-disclosure-act/

⁵ Reference **Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998** www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/23/contents

⁶ Reference <https://protect-advice.org.uk/pida/>

⁷ Reference www.ocr.org.uk/administration/general-qualifications/assessment/malpractice/whistleblowing/

⁸ Reference www.gov.uk/guidance/ofquals-whistleblowing-policy

Anonymity

In some circumstances, the whistle-blower might find it difficult to raise concerns with the nominated member of the senior leadership team. If a concern is raised anonymously, the issue may not be able to be taken further if insufficient information has been provided. In such instances, and if appropriate, the allegation may be disclosed to a union representative, who could then be required to report the concern without disclosing its source. Alternatively, whistle-blowers or others with concerns about potential malpractice can report the matter direct to Ofqual, who is identified as a ‘prescribed body’⁹. Awarding organisations are not prescribed bodies under whistleblowing legislation; however, awarding organisation investigation teams do give those reporting concerns the opportunity for anonymity.

A whistle-blower can give his/her name but may also request confidentiality; the person receiving the information should make every effort to protect the identity of the whistle-blower.

Students

Students at Caistor Grammar School are made to feel comfortable discussing/reporting malpractice issues of which they are aware. The regulations surrounding their assessments, and wider academic integrity, will be reiterated to students who are undertaking, or who are about to undertake, their courses of study.

⁹ Reference www.gov.uk/government/publications/blowing-the-whistle-list-of-prescribed-people-and-bodies--2/whistleblowing-list-of-prescribed-people-and-bodies

**Post-Results Services Timeline
& Information for Candidates
(Staff and Parents)**

2025/2026

Purpose of the Timeline

The purpose of this timeline is to:

- Provide candidates and parents/carers the information needed to allow decisions to be made on time
- Outline what information is needed in order to process a post-results request

(Dates are non-specific due to the annual changes, hence are approximate and actual specific dates will be given once they are available)

- End of March
Candidates provide to the Exams Officer an email/contact that is regularly checked and one that won't be deprecated (school email accounts are deprecated 90 days after a candidate leaves CGS)
Email sent to candidates and parents/carers which will include but not limited to:
 - Exam Timetable
 - Exams Policy
 - JCQ Notice to Candidates
- End of June
Candidates finish exams and their time in school
Letter sent via email to all candidates and parents/carers outlining the date of their results, how they will be received, the Post-Results Services available to them, the fees for the services (the fees are exam board specific and apply to each paper and not per subject) and the specific deadline for the requests
- Mid-August
Candidates will receive their results, in-person or via email; subject teachers and Exams Officer will be available to advise.
Email with the Post-Results Services Request form will be sent the morning of results.

Priority services are only available to A-Level candidates

Candidates complete the Post-Results Services Request form (this must be done and signed by the candidate) and returns it to the Exams Officer.

Exams Officer will generate an MCAS item for that specific candidate and email the candidate to confirm the form has been received and an MCAS item has been generated detailing how many items need to be paid for i.e., number of papers being reviewed.

Candidate or parent/carer pay for the item as per the instructions and then emails the Exams Officer to confirm payment has been sent.

Within 48 hrs of receiving payment the Exams Officer will email to the candidate the confirmation of the review.

Once an outcome has been received the Exams Officer will email that outcome to the candidate, Head of Department and Chris Frost.

- End of September
Where relevant a new statement of results will be emailed, and any fees returned to origin of payment

Exams NEA Procedure

2025/26

The purpose of this procedure is to bring all departments together in the methodology used in giving out marks for NEA and to ensure that students know what to expect and ensure all communication is appropriate.

In line with the NEA Policy for Caistor Grammar the following highlights detailed specifics to aid in the process for internally assessed components.

Due to the term dates for 2025-2026, it is essential you are familiar with and plan for NEA marking and informing timescales.

When informing students of their internally assessed mark, this is to be done in person. If this is not possible due to student absence discuss with the exams officer how to proceed. Ideally, the mark should be given in their last timetabled lesson with their teacher prior to the deadline. If a lesson is not timetabled arrange an appointment to meet with the class/student to do this.

- Inform candidates of their marks which could be subject to change by the awarding body moderation process
- Ensure candidates are informed of the timescale as indicated in the centre's internal appeals procedure to enable an internal appeal/request for a review of marking to be submitted by a candidate and the outcome known before final marks are submitted to the awarding body. This is 48hrs. They must email the exams officer.

The internal deadline for marks to the exams officer is **Friday 8 May**.

To allow due process in time for this deadline, marks need to be given to students as the timetable permits as follows:

Monday 20 April - students must respond by end of day Wednesday 22 April

Tuesday 21 April – students must respond by end of day Thursday 23 April

Wednesday 22 April – students must repond by end of day Friday 24 April

Thursday 23 April before morning break – students must respond by midnight Friday 24 April

Any queries please email the exams officer.

Exams Archiving Policy

2025/26

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- identify exams-related information/records held by the Exams Office
- identify the retention period
- determine the action required at the end of the retention period and the method of disposal
- inform or supplement the CGS wide records management policy

Record type	Record(s) description (where required)	Retention information/period	Action at end of retention period (method of disposal)
Access arrangements information	Any hard copy information kept by the EO relating to an access arrangement candidate.	To be returned to SENCo as records owner at end of the candidate's final exam series.	
Alternative site arrangements	Any hard copy information generated on an alternative site arrangement. Notifications submitted online via CAP.	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential disposal
Attendance register copies		<i>...keep signed records of the seating plan, the invigilation arrangements and the centre's copies of the attendance registers for each examination. The awarding bodies may need to refer to these records. You must keep them until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later...</i> [Reference ICE 12, 22]	Confidential disposal
Awarding body administrative information	Any hard copy publications provided by awarding bodies.	To be retained until the current academic year update is provided.	General waste
Candidates' scripts	Any unwanted copies of scripts returned to CGS through the Access to Scripts (ATS) service.	To be retained securely until the awarding body's earliest date for confidential disposal of unwanted scripts. <i>Where teachers have used copies of candidates' scripts for teaching and learning purposes but no longer wish to retain them, they must ensure that the scripts are disposed of in a confidential manner.</i> [Reference PRS 6] <i>...ensure that when scripts that have been returned under access to scripts arrangements are no longer required, they are disposed of in a confidential manner, but no earlier than the dates specified by the awarding bodies...</i> [Reference GR 3]	Confidential disposal
Candidates' work	Non-examination assessment work returned to CGS by the awarding body at the end of the moderation period.	To be logged on return to CGS and immediately returned to subject staff as records owner. To be stored safely and securely along with work that did not form part of the moderation sample (including materials stored electronically) <i>...store safely and securely all non-examination assessments, including controlled assessments, coursework or portfolios, retained in, or returned to, the centre until the deadline for a</i>	Returned to candidates or safe disposal

Record type	Record(s) description (where required)	Retention information/period	Action at end of retention period (method of disposal)
		<p><i>review of moderation has passed or until a review of moderation, an appeal or a malpractice investigation has been completed, whichever is later. This includes materials stored electronically. See paragraph 4.8 of the JCQ publication Instructions for conducting non - examination assessments https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessments[Reference GR 3]</i></p>	
Certificates	Candidate certificates issued by awarding bodies.	<p><i>...retain all unclaimed certificates under secure conditions for a minimum of 12 months from the date of issue</i> [Reference GR 5]</p>	Confidential destruction
Certificate destruction information	A record of unclaimed certificates that have been destroyed.	<p><i>...destroy any unclaimed certificates after retaining them for a minimum of 12 months. They must be destroyed in a confidential manner. Centres that do not have a means of destroying certificates confidentially may return them to the respective awarding body. A record of certificates that have been destroyed should be retained for four years from their date of destruction. However, candidates should be informed that some awarding bodies do not offer a replacement certificate service. In such circumstances the awarding body will issue a Certifying Statement of Results... (Where an awarding body issues a replacement certificate, or a Certifying Statement of Results, this will provide an accurate and complete record of results for all qualifications covered by the original certificate... return any certificates requested by the awarding bodies. Certificates remain the property of the awarding bodies at all times.</i> [Reference GR 5]</p> <p>Currently CGS do not destroy unclaimed certificates and a digital database has been created documenting which certificates we have in secure storage and which have been collected, by who and when. This record can only be accessed by Exam Department.</p>	Confidential destruction
Certificate issue information	A record of certificates that have been issued.	<p><i>...distribute certificates to all candidates without delay and regardless of any disputes (such as non-payment of fees). Certificates must not be withheld without prior permission from an awarding body which will only be given in very exceptional circumstances. A record should be kept of the certificates that are issued...</i> [Reference GR 5]</p>	

Record type	Record(s) description (where required)	Retention information/period	Action at end of retention period (method of disposal)
Confidential materials: initial point of delivery logs	Logs recording awarding body confidential exam materials received by an authorised member of staff at the initial point of delivery and the secure movement of packages by an authorised member of staff to the secure room for transferal to CGS secure storage facility.	Until certificates issued for that exam series	General waste
Confidential materials: receipt, secure movement and secure storage logs	Logs recording confidential exam materials received (including encrypted materials received via email or downloaded from an awarding body's secure extranet site), checked and placed in the secure storage facility by the exams officer (or other authorised member of CGS staff) throughout the period the materials are confidential	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential destruction
Conflicts of Interest records	Records demonstrating the management of Conflicts of Interest	<i>...The records may be inspected by a JCQ Centre Inspector and/or awarding body staff. They might be requested in the event of concerns being reported to an awarding body. The records must be retained until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later.</i> [Reference GR 5]	Confidential destruction
Dispatch logs	Proof of dispatch of exam script packages to awarding body examiners covered by the DfE (Standards & Testing Agency) yellow label service	Until certificates issued for that exam series	General waste
Entry information	Any hard copy information relating to candidates' entries.	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential destruction
Exam question papers	Question papers for timetabled written exams.	<i>...For confidentiality purposes question papers must not be released to centre personnel for use in accordance with the above licence until after the awarding body's published finishing time for the examination or, in the case of a timetable variation, until all candidates within the centre have completed the examination. This does not restrict access to question papers by authorised centre personnel for the purpose of conducting examinations...</i> [Reference GR 6]	Issued to subject staff

Record type	Record(s) description (where required)	Retention information/period	Action at end of retention period (method of disposal)
Exam room checklists	Checklists confirming exam room conditions and invigilation arrangements for each exam session.	Until certificates issued for that exam series	General waste
Exam room incident logs	Logs recording any incidents or irregularities in exam rooms for each exam session.	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential destruction
Exam stationery	Awarding body exam stationery provided solely for the purpose of external exams.	<i>...return unused stationery to the secure storage facility or secure room until needed for a future examination. Surplus stationery must not be used for internal school tests, mock examinations and non-examination assessments... destroy confidentially any out-of-date stationery.</i> [Reference ICE 30]	Confidential destruction
Examiner reports		(Where/if provided) To be immediately provided to head of department as records owner.	
Invigilator and facilitator training records		<i>A record of the content of the training given to invigilators must be available for inspection and retained on file until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later.</i> <i>A record of the content of the training given to invigilators and those facilitating an access arrangement for a candidate under examination conditions must be available for inspection and retained on file until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later.</i> [Reference ICE 12, 13]	Confidential destruction
Moderator reports		(Where printed from electronic copy) To be immediately provided to head of department as records owner.	
Moderation returns logs	Logs recording the return of candidates' work to CGS by the awarding body at the end of the moderation period	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential destruction
Overnight supervision information	The JCQ Overnight Supervision form is completed online using CAP. The JCQ Overnight Supervision Declaration form is downloaded from CAP)for	<i>...keep all completed forms available in your centre for inspection until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has</i>	Confidential destruction

Record type	Record(s) description (where required)	Retention information/period	Action at end of retention period (method of disposal)
	signing by the candidate, the supervisor and the head of centre.	<i>been completed, whichever is later. Forms may be stored electronically or in hard copy paper format and must not be sent to an awarding body, unless specifically requested...</i> [Reference ICE 8]	
Post-results services: confirmation of candidate consent information	Hard copy or email record of required candidate consent	<i>Consent forms or e-mails from candidates must be retained by the centre and kept for at least six months following the outcome of the clerical re-check or review of marking or any subsequent appeal. The awarding bodies reserve the right to inspect such documentation.</i> <i>This form should be retained on the centre's files for at least six months following the outcome of the clerical re-check, review of marking or any subsequent appeal.</i> <i>This form should be retained on the centre's files for at least six months.</i> [Reference PRS 4 , appendix A and B]	Confidential destruction
Post-results services: requests/outcome information	Any hard copy information relating to a post-results service request (RoRs, appeals, ATS) submitted to an awarding body for a candidate and outcome information from the awarding body.	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential destruction
Post-results services: tracking logs	Logs tracking to resolution all post-results service requests submitted to awarding bodies.	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential destruction
Private candidate information	Any hard copy information relating to private candidates' entries.	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential destruction
Proof of postage – candidates' work	Proof of postage of sample of candidates' work submitted to awarding body moderators. (Proof of postage of candidates' scripts to awarding body examiners/markers)	<i>Centres not involved in the secure despatch of exam scripts service... must obtain proof of postage/despatch for each packet of scripts, which must be retained on the centre's files until the results are published, in case of loss or damage. (Proof of postage will provide evidence that the candidates' scripts have left the centre. This is taken to indicate that the scripts were written at the appointed time and that, should the scripts not be received by the awarding body/examiner, then special consideration may be possible.)...</i> [Reference ICE 29]	General waste

Record type	Record(s) description (where required)	Retention information/period	Action at end of retention period (method of disposal)
Resolving timetable clashes information	Any hard copy information relating to the resolution of a candidate's clash of timetabled exam papers	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential destruction
Results information	Broadsheets of results summarising candidate final grades by subject by exam series.	Records for current year plus previous 6 years to be retained as a minimum.	Confidential destruction
Seating plans	Plans showing the seating arrangements of all candidates for every exam taken.	<i>...keep signed records of the seating plan, the invigilation arrangements and the centre's copies of the attendance registers for each examination. The awarding bodies may need to refer to these records. You must keep them until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later.</i> [Reference ICE 12]	Confidential destruction
Special consideration information	Any hard copy information relating to a special consideration application which has been submitted to an awarding body for a candidate and signed evidence produced by a senior leader in support of the application.	All applications must be supported by signed evidence produced by a member of the senior leadership team. The centre must retain this evidence until after the publication of results. (Reference SC 6)	Confidential destruction
Suspected malpractice reports/outcomes	Any hard copy information relating to a suspected or actual malpractice investigation/report submitted to an awarding body and outcome information from the awarding body.	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential destruction
Transferred candidate arrangements	Any hard copy information relating to a transferred candidate arrangement. Applications submitted online via CAP.	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential destruction
Very late arrival reports/outcomes	Any hard copy information relating to a candidate arriving very late to an exam. Reports submitted online via CAP.	Until certificates issued for that exam series	Confidential destruction