



Examination contingency plan

Approved by:	Paula Tucker	Date: 15/9/25
Review by:	31/9/26	

Contents

1. Aims
2. Legislation and guidance
3. Responsibilities
4. Monitoring arrangements
5. Links with other policies
6. Contingency plan

1. Aims

This plan aims to:

Examine potential risks and issues that could disrupt the management and administration of exams

Mitigate the impact of disruptions to exam administration and to candidates by providing actions or procedures to follow

2. Legislation and guidance

This plan complies with the [Joint Council for Qualifications \(JCQ\) General Regulations for Approved Centres](#), which requires all exam centres to have a written examination contingency plan/examinations policy.

It's also based on:

- [Ofqual's guidance on contingency planning](#)
- [JCQ's exam contingency plan guidance](#)

3. Responsibilities

3.1 Head of centre

The head of centre is **Paul Tucker**. They are responsible for ensuring that:

- A written examination contingency plan/examinations policy is in place and covers all aspects of exam administration.
- Staff are aware of these plans

3.2 Staff and invigilators

Staff and invigilators involved in the centre's exam process are responsible for reading, understanding and implementing the contingency plan.

4. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by Executive Headteacher every year in September. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Assessment policy
- Invigilation Guidance and Exam Monitoring for AIM Qualifications

1. Contingency plan

SCENARIO	WHEN TO IMPLEMENT	ACTIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
Disruption of teaching time in the weeks before an exam, due to the centre being closed for an extended period	When the centre is closed and candidates are unable to attend for an extended period during normal teaching or supported study time, interrupting the provision of normal teaching and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek advice from relevant awarding organisations and the JCQ • Communicate with parents, carers and candidates about the potential for disruption to teaching time and plans to address this • Have a contingency plan to facilitate alternative methods of learning, alternative venues or both • Prioritise candidates who will be facing examinations shortly • Advise candidates, where appropriate, to sit examinations in the next available series • Communicate any changes to your plans with parents, carers and candidates 	PTR/Exams Officer
Candidates are unable to take examinations because of a crisis, but the centre remains open	If candidates are unable to attend examination centres to take examinations as normal, e.g. due to a sickness bug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with relevant awarding organisations at the outset to make them aware of the issue • Liaise with these candidates to identify whether the examination can be sat at an alternative venue in agreement with relevant awarding organisations • Communicate with parents, carers and candidates regarding solutions to the issue • Offer candidates an opportunity to sit any examinations missed at the next available series • Apply to awarding organisations for special consideration for candidates where they have met the minimum requirements 	PTR/Exams Officer

SCENARIO	WHEN TO IMPLEMENT	ACTIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
Centre is unable to operate as normal during the examination period	If the centre is unable to open as normal for scheduled examinations, e.g. it is forced to close due to a fire, flood or reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform relevant awarding organisations as soon as possible • Refer to emergency plans and/or health and safety policy, where appropriate • Head of centre will decide whether the centre is safe to open, based on advice or instructions from relevant local or national agencies. Consider whether to open for examinations and examination candidates only, if possible • Use alternative venues in agreement with relevant awarding organisations • Communicate any changes to plans with parents, carers and candidates • Apply to awarding organisations for special consideration for candidates where they have met the minimum requirements • Offer candidates an opportunity to sit any examinations missed at the next available series, if possible 	PTR/Exams Officer

Disruption in the distribution of examination papers	If there is disruption to the distribution of examination papers to centres in advance of examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find out from the awarding organisation if they're able to organise an alternative courier and time to deliver hard copies If the above isn't possible, organise receipt of electronic access to papers via a secure external network Have plans in place to ensure the school is able to receive, make and store papers under secure conditions As a last resort, the awarding organisation may consider rescheduling the examination 	
SCENARIO	WHEN TO IMPLEMENT	ACTIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
Disruption to the transportation of completed examination scripts	If there is a delay in normal collection arrangements for completed examination scripts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your examinations are part of the national 'yellow label service' or where your awarding organisation arranges collections, seek advice from awarding organisations and their normal collection agency regarding collection Only make alternative arrangements after approval from the awarding organisation Ensure secure storage of completed examination papers until collection If your centre makes its own transportation arrangements, investigate alternative arrangements that comply with the JCQ's instructions for conducting examinations 	PTR/Exams Officer

Assessment evidence is not available to be marked	In the event of large-scale damage to, or destruction of, completed examination scripts or assessment evidence before it can be marked – e.g. a fire or flood at the centre destroys completed examination scripts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate this immediately to the relevant awarding organisation(s), candidates and their parents or carers • Where possible, the awarding organisation will generate candidate marks based on other appropriate evidence of candidate achievement • Where marks cannot be generated by awarding organisations, candidates may need to retake affected assessment in a subsequent assessment series 	PTR/Exams Officer
Centre is unable to distribute results as normal or facilitate postresults services	If the centre is unable to access or manage the distribution of results to candidates, or to facilitate postresults services – e.g. due to failure of IT systems or a cyber attack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact awarding organisations about alternative options (if digital communications aren't available, make contact by other means, e.g. phone call) • Make arrangements to access results at an alternative site • Share facilities with other schools/colleges if possible ➤ Co-ordinate access to post-results services from an alternative site • Contact the relevant awarding organisation if electronic postresults requests are not possible 	PTR/Exams Officer