



EXAMS DISABILITY POLICY

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This document is provided as an exams-specific supplement to the centre-wide Equal Opportunities Policy (P13) and its Related Documents (especially the Accessibility Plan P13RD02 and the Disability Policy P13RD03). It is also related to the College's Assessment and Examinations Guidance (P5RD11). This policy detail how the centre:

“recognises its duties towards disabled candidates as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010†. This must include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates. †for any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect”

[Chapter 5.4 of the current JCQ publication General regulations for approved centres]

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

This policy details how the centre 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

The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability.

A definition is provided on page 4 of the current 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.

IDENTIFYING THE NEED FOR ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

HEAD OF CENTRE

- Is familiar with the entire contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publications including GR and AA
- Ensures the quality of the access arrangements process within the centre
- Ensures a policy demonstrating the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place
- Supports the Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) in determining the need for and implementing access arrangements

SENIOR LEADERS

- Are familiar with the entire contents of the annually updated JCQ publications including GR and AA
- Ensures a policy demonstrating the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place
- Support the LSC in determining the need for and implementing access arrangements
- Ensure the quality of the access arrangements process within the centre
- Ensure staff roles, responsibilities and processes in identifying, requesting and implementing access arrangements are clearly defined and documented
- Ensure a policy demonstrating the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place

LEARNING SUPPORT COORDINATOR (LSC)

- Has full knowledge and understanding of the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication AA
- Ensures an appropriately qualified specialist assessor(s) is recommended to families for exam access arrangement assessments 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
- Works with the Examination Officer (EO) on the access arrangements process to facilitate access for candidates
- Defines and documents roles, responsibilities and processes in identifying, requesting and implementing access arrangements
- If the LSC is not the appropriately qualified assessor then the LSC works with the recommended specialist assessor on all matters relating to assessing candidates and the administration of the assessment process
- 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 centre
- Ensures the need for access arrangements for a candidate will be considered on a subject by subject basis
- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the specialist assessor's qualification

- Works with teaching staff, relevant support staff and the EO to ensure centre-delegated and awarding body approved access arrangements are put in place for candidates taking internal and external exams/assessments
- Obtains information to evidence the normal way of working of a candidate

EXAMINATIONS 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
- Ensures the assessment process is administered in accordance with the regulations
- Works with the LSC on the access arrangements process to facilitate access for candidates

TEACHING STAFF

- Inform the LSC of any support that might be needed by a candidate
- Support the LSC in determining the need for and implementing access arrangements
- Ensure arrangements put in place for exams/assessments reflect a candidate's normal way of working within the centre
- Provide information to evidence the normal way of working of a candidate
- Provide appropriate evidence to confirm the need(s) of a candidate

SPECIALIST ASSESSOR OF CANDIDATES WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

The College recommends a suitably qualified self-employed specialist assessor to review and assess exam access arrangements in partnership with the LSC. The school:

- Ensures the assessor has detailed understanding of the current JCQ publication AA
- Ensures that all assessments carried out and arrangements put in place comply with JCQ and awarding body regulations and guidance
- Ensures appropriate assessments are conducted to identify the need(s) of a candidate
- Ensures the assessor provides appropriate evidence to confirm the need(s) of a candidate
- Ensures the assessor completes appropriate documentation as required by the regulations of JCQ and the awarding body

REQUESTING ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

LEARNING SUPPORT COORDINATOR (LSC)

- 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
- Ensures appropriate and required evidence is held on file to confirm validation responses in AAO including the completion of JCQ Form 8, where required, and a body of evidence to substantiate the candidate's normal way of working within the centre
- Confirms by ticking the 'Confirmation' box prior to submitting the application for approval that the 'malpractice consequence statement' has been read and accepted in the presence of the EO
- Maintains a file for each candidate 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 the centre
- in addition, for GCSE and GCE qualifications (where approval is required), a print out of the AAO approval and a signed data protection notice (which provides candidate consent to their personal details being shared)
- Presents the files when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector
- Liaises with teaching staff regarding any appropriate modified paper requirements for candidates

In conjunction with the EO;

- Follows guidance in AA Chapter 8 to process approval applications for access arrangements for GCSE and GCE qualifications
- Applies for approval where this is required, through Access arrangements online (AAO), or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Makes an awarding body referral through AAO where the initial application form approval may not be approved by AAO, where it is deemed by the centre 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 applied for by the awarding body deadline

EXAMINATIONS 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
- Presents the files when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector in the absence of the LSC
- Liaises with the LSC to ensure AAO approval is in place for early opening of papers where this may be required where the centre 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 (AAO for GCE and GCSE; JCQ Form 7 or 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

In conjunction with the LSC;

- Follows guidance in AA Chapter 8 to process approval applications for access arrangements for GCSE and GCE qualifications
- Applies for approval where this is required, through Access arrangements online (AAO), or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Makes an awarding body referral through AAO where the initial application form approval may not be approved by AAO, where it is deemed by the centre 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 applied for by the awarding body deadline

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 LSC, the EO and other relevant centre staff in ensuring appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Is familiar with the Checklist for heads of centre and examination officers – The Equality Act 2010 and conduct of examinations provided in the current ICE (page 44)
- Appoints appropriate centre staff as facilitators to support candidates (practical assistant, prompter, Oral Language Modifier, reader, scribe or Sign Language Interpreter)
- Liaises with the LSC to ensure that invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues

LEARNING SUPPORT COORDINATOR (LSC)

- 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)
- Is familiar with the Checklist for heads of centre and examination officers – The Equality Act 2010 and conduct of examinations provided in the current ICE (page 44)
- 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 that any arrangements put in place do not unfairly disadvantage or advantage disabled candidates
- Liaises with the EO regarding facilitation of access arrangement candidates in exams
- Liaises with the EO to ensure facilitators supporting candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular access arrangement(s)
- Ensures the facilitator is known by or introduced to the candidate prior to exams
- 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
- Liaises with the EO when 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 with the EO

EXAMINATIONS OFFICER (EO)

- Is familiar with and follows the Checklist for heads of centre and examination officers – The Equality Act 2010 and conduct of examinations provided in the current ICE (page 44)
- Is familiar with the Checklist for heads of centre and examination officers – The Equality Act 2010 and conduct of examinations provided in the current ICE (page 44)
- Ensures that any arrangements put in place do not unfairly disadvantage or advantage disabled candidates
- Liaises with House Staff, ICT and LSC regarding the provision of appropriate rooming and equipment that may be required to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Ensures facilitators supporting candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular access arrangement(s)
- Ensures cover sheets, where these are required by the arrangement are completed as required by facilitators
- Liaises with the LSC and teaching staff to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Liaises with the LSC 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 LSC regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with the LSC regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates
- 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 invigilators are briefed prior to each exam session of the arrangements in place for a disabled candidate in their exam room
- Makes modifications that are permitted by the centre (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, where approved, opens the exam question paper packet in the secure room no earlier than 90 minutes prior to the published start time of the exam
- Understands that where permitted/approved, secure exam question paper packets may need to be opened early where preparation is required by the facilitator (Oral Language Modifier, Live Speaker, Sign Language Interpreter only)
- Ensures that the facilitator only has access to the papers one hour prior to the published start time of the exam
- 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 GCSE and GCE qualifications and attaches them to candidate's exam script
- 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 LSC 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

TEACHING STAFF

- Support the LSC and the EO to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Are familiar with the Checklist for heads of centre and examination officers – The Equality Act 2010 and conduct of examinations provided in the current ICE (page 44)
- Ensure that any arrangements put in place do not unfairly disadvantage or advantage disabled candidates

INTERNAL PUBLIC EXAM ASSESSMENTS

These are non-examination assessments (NEA) which are normally set by a centre/awarding body, marked and internally verified by the centre and moderated by the awarding body. “Externally marked and/or externally set practical examinations taken at different times across centres are classified as ‘NEA’.”

[Quote taken from the JCQ publication Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments – Foreword, page 3]

LEARNING SUPPORT COORDINATOR (LSC)

- 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

In conjunction with the EO;

- Ensures candidates are aware of the access arrangements that are in place for their assessments
- Ensures facilitators supporting candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular access arrangement(s)
- Make arrangements when a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of his/her formal supervised assessment

EXAMINATIONS OFFICER (EO)

- Liaises with the LSC 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

HEADS OF DEPARTMENT (TEACHING STAFF)

- Support the LSC in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Ensure centre-delegated and awarding body approved arrangements are in place prior to a candidate taking his/her first formal supervised assessment
- Ensure cover sheets are completed as required by facilitators
- Provide the LSC with assessment schedules to ensure arrangements are put in place when required
- Liaise with the LSC regarding assessment materials that may need to be modified for a candidate

TRIAL EXAMINATIONS AND BENCHMARKS

These are exams or tests which are set and marked within the centre as part of our tracking cycle.

LEARNING SUPPORT COORDINATOR (LSC)

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

EXAMINATIONS OFFICER (EO)

- Provides the LSC with internal exam timetable, when appropriate, to ensure arrangements are put in place when required

TEACHING STAFF

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

FACILITATING ACCESS – EXAMPLES

The following information confirms the centre's 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 the centre for the purposes of facilitating access.

Example of candidate need(s)	Arrangement s explored	Centre actions
A medical condition which prevents the candidate from taking exams in the centre	Alternative site for the conduct of examinations Supervised rest breaks	LSC and EO gathers evidence to support the need for the candidate to take exams at home EO submits appropriate 'Alternative site for the conduct of exams form' EO provides candidate with exam timetable and JCQ information for candidates Assistant Head (Inclusion and Enrichment) agrees with candidate that prior to each exam will call to confirm fitness to take exam EO ensures an invigilator is assigned and collects all exam papers and materials Invigilator monitors candidate's condition for each exam and records any issues on incident log Invigilator records rest breaks (time and duration) on incident log and confirms set time given for exam Invigilator briefs EO after each exam on how candidate's performance in exam may have been affected by his/her condition EO processes request(s) for special consideration where applicable; incident log(s) provides supporting evidence
Persistent and significant difficulties in accessing written text	Reader/computer reader 25% Extra time Separate invigilation within the centre	Confirms candidate is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010 Papers checked for those testing reading Computer reader sourced for use in papers (or sections of papers) testing reading OR up to 50% extra time awarded
Significant difficulty in concentrating	Prompter Separate invigilation within the centre	Gathers evidence to support substantial and long term adverse impairment Confirms with candidate how and when they will be prompted 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)
A wheelchair user	Desk Rooms Facilities Seating arrangements Practical assistant	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 Provides height adjustable desk in exam room Allocates exam room on the ground floor and spaces desks to allow wheelchair access Seats candidate near exam room door Confirms arrangements in place to assist the candidate

		<p>in case of emergency evacuation of the exam room</p> <p>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</p>
A Candidate with severe anxiety	Rooms Seating Arrangements	<p>LSC and EO gather evidence to support candidates condition</p> <p>If appropriate seat at the back of the examination room near to a door or in a room with a small number of candidates</p> <p>Look at allowing rest breaks</p> <p>EO processes request(s) for special consideration where applicable; incident log(s) provides supporting evidence</p>