



Exam Complaints Policy

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Index

Index.....	2
Purpose of the procedure	3
Grounds for complaint.....	3
Teaching and learning.....	3
Quality of teaching and learning.....	3
Access arrangements	3
Entries	4
Conducting examinations	4
Results and Post-results.....	4
Complaints and appeals procedure	5
How to make a formal complaint	5
Appeals.....	5
Appendix 1 – Complaints and Appeals Log.....	6

Purpose of the procedure

- 1 This procedure confirms Alderbrook School compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres that the centre has in place "...a written complaints and appeals procedure which will cover general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification

Grounds for complaint

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

Teaching and learning

Quality of teaching and learning

- a. Non-subject specialist teacher without adequate training/subject matter expertise utilised on a long-term basis
- b. Teacher lacking knowledge of new specification/incorrect core content studied/taught
- c. Core content not adequately covered
- d. Inadequate feedback for a candidate following assessment(s)
- e. Pre-release/advance material/set task issued by the awarding body not provided on time to an exam candidate
- f. The taking of an assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not conducted according to the JCQ/awarding body instructions
- g. 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 centre's internal appeals procedure)
- h. Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure
- i. Candidate not informed of his/her centre assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- j. Candidate not informed of his/her centre assessed marks in sufficient time to request/appeal a review of marking prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- k. Candidate not given sufficient time to review materials to make a decision whether to request a review of centre assessed marks

Access arrangements

- a. Candidate not assessed by the centre's appointed assessor
- b. Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding his/her access arrangements
- c. Candidate did not consent to personal data being shared electronically (by the non acquisition of a signed Data Protection Notice)
- d. Candidate not informed/adequately informed of the arrangements in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangements would not apply
- e. Exam information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it
- f. Adapted equipment put in place failed during exam/assessment
- g. Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment

- h. Appropriate arrangements not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment

Entries

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

Conducting examinations

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

Results and Post-results

- a. Before exams, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the accessibility of senior members of centre staff after the publication of results
- b. Candidate not having access to a member of senior staff after the publication of results to discuss/make decision on the submission of an enquiry
- c. Candidate request for return of work after moderation and work not available/disposed of earlier than allowed in the regulations
- d. Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a result (complainant to refer via exams officer to awarding body post-results services)
- e. Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a centre decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal (complainant to refer via the Examinations Officer to the centre's internal appeals procedure)
- f. Centre applied for the wrong post-results service/for the wrong exam paper for a candidate
- g. Centre missed awarding body deadline to apply for a post-results service
- h. Centre applied for a post-results service for candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission

Complaints and appeals procedure

- 3 If a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) has a general concern or complaint about the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification he/she is following, Alderbrook School encourages him/her to try to resolve this informally in the first instance. A concern or complaint should be made in person, by telephone or in writing. If a complaint fails to be resolved informally the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) is then at liberty to make a formal complaint.

How to make a formal complaint

- 4 A complaint should be submitted in writing to the Head of Centre.
- 5 A face to face meeting will then be arranged with the appropriate member of staff to allow the complainant to air their grievances and present any relevant information with the hope that a resolution can be met.
- 6 If necessary, the head of centre will further investigate or appoint a member of the senior leadership team (who is not involved in the grounds for complaint and has no personal interest in the outcome) to investigate the complaint and report on the findings and conclusion
- 7 The findings and conclusion will normally be provided to the complainant within 10 working days following the investigation.

Appeals

- 8 Following the outcome, if the complainant remains dissatisfied and believes there are clear grounds an appeal can be submitted within 10 working days of receiving the response.
- 9 The appeal will be referred to Chair of Trustees (or a special Committee of the Governing body) for consideration.
- 10 The Chair of Trustees (or Committee) will normally inform the appellant of the conclusion within 10 working days following the investigation.

