The Kimberley School
Escalation policy (Exams)
2026/27

This process is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations and reflects centre practice

Approved/reviewed by	
Andrew Park	
Date of next review	September 2027

Purpose of the process

In terms of internal governance arrangements, it is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that The Kimberley School has in place a written escalation process should the head of centre, or a member of the senior leadership team with oversight of examination and assessment administration, be absent.

This process confirms the main duties and responsibilities to be escalated.

This process also supports The Kimberley School being able to confirm to an awarding body the external governance arrangements so that the awarding body has confidence in the integrity of centre activities such as the delivery of qualifications and the conducting of examinations and assessments.

Before examinations (Planning)

In the event of the absence of the head of centre or the member of senior leadership with oversight of examination administration, responsibility for implementing JCQ regulations and requirements relating to activity prior to examinations will be escalated to:

- Data & Exam Manager – Paul Thomas to cover Exams officer's absence.
- In the event that the Senior Leader (Deputy Head Teacher – Curriculum) with oversight of examination administration is absent, this responsibility will pass to the Assistant Head Teacher – Progress. In the case that both are absent this responsibility will pass to the Head of Centre.
- Resilience can also be called from exam members of the trust.

To support understanding of the regulations and requirements, the following JCQ documents will be referenced:

- A guide to the special consideration process
- Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments
- AI Use in Assessments: Your role in protecting the integrity of qualifications
- Guidance for centres on cyber security
- Instructions for conducting coursework
- Instructions for conducting examinations
- Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (GCE and GCSE specifications)
- Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments (Vocational and Technical Qualifications)
- Notice to Centres – Informing candidates of their centre-assessed marks
- Plagiarism in Assessments – Guidance for Teachers/Assessors
- Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures

Main areas of compliance relate to:

- Third party arrangements
- Centre status
- Confidentiality
- Resilience and contingency arrangements
- Cyber security
- Communication
- Centre management:
  Recruitment, selection and training of staff
  Internal governance arrangements
  Delivery of qualifications
  Public liability
  Conflicts of interest
  Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments
  Security of assessment materials
  National Centre Number Register
  Centre inspections

Additional JCQ information for reference:

- Centre Inspection Service

Policies available for inspection
Specific JCQ documents for reference:

- General Regulations for Approved Centres (section 5)
- Instructions for conducting examinations (section 25)
- Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (section 5)

- Personal data, freedom of information and copyright

Before examinations (Entries and Pre-exams)

In the event of the absence of the head of centre or the member of senior leadership with oversight of examination and assessment administration, responsibility for implementing JCQ regulations and requirements relating to entries and exam preparation will be escalated to:

- Data & Exam Manager – Paul Thomas to cover Exams officer's absence.
- In the event that the Senior Leader (Deputy Head Teacher – Curriculum) with oversight of examination administration is absent, this responsibility will pass to the Assistant Head Teacher – Progress. In the case that both are absent this responsibility will pass to the Head of Centre.
- Resilience can also be called from exam members of the trust.

To support understanding of the regulations and requirements, sections of relevant JCQ documents will be specifically referenced including:

- General Regulations for Approved Centres (section 5)
- Instructions for conducting examinations (sections 1-15)
- Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (sections 6-8)

Main areas of compliance relate to:

- Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments
- Entries and registrations (including ensuring appropriate controls are in place which ensure accurate entries and, as applicable, registration data is submitted to the awarding bodies)

  Additional JCQ documents for reference:
  - Key Dates
  - Guidance Notes for Transferred Candidates
  - Alternative Site guidance notes
  - Guidance notes for overnight supervision of candidates with a timetable variation
- Centre-assessed work (including ensuring that where candidates' work is produced electronically it is backed-up and considering the contingency of candidates' work being backed-up in the event of IT system corruption and cyber-attacks; ensuring appropriate controls are in place which allow accurate internally assessed marks to be submitted to the awarding bodies; declaring any possible conflict of interest to the relevant awarding body before the published deadline for entries for each examination series, i.e. where a member of staff assesses a candidate with whom they have a close personal relationship)
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  Additional JCQ document for reference:
  - Guidance Notes – Centre Consortium Arrangements

- Candidate information
  Additional JCQ documents for reference:

- Information for candidates
- Exam room posters

During examinations (Exam time)

In the event of the absence of the head of centre or the member of senior leadership with oversight of examination and assessment administration, responsibility for implementing JCQ regulations and requirements relating to during exam time will be escalated to:

- Data & Exam Manager – Paul Thomas to cover Exams officer's absence.
- In the event that the Senior Leader (Deputy Head Teacher – Curriculum) with oversight of examination administration is absent, this responsibility will pass to the Assistant Head Teacher – Progress. In the case that both are absent this responsibility will pass to the Head of Centre.
- Resilience can also be called from exam members of the trust.

To support understanding of the regulations and requirements, sections of relevant JCQ documents will be specifically referenced including:

- General Regulations for Approved Centres (sections 3, 5)
- Instructions for conducting examinations (sections 16-31)
- Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (section 8)
- A guide to the special consideration process (sections 2-7)

Main areas of compliance relate to:

- Conducting examinations and assessments
  Additional JCQ document for reference:
  - Guidance notes – Very Late Arrival
- Malpractice
- Retention of candidates' work

After examinations (Results and Post-Results)

As a contingency, the centre has at least one senior member of staff (senior designated contact) who is available to manage emergency requests from awarding bodies that are results related during the summer holidays. The National Centre Number Register is provided with the senior designated contact details (this might include a personal mobile number and/or email address). These are the contact details of someone who can be reached in an emergency if the centre is closed over the summer and who can mobilise resources to respond to the issue. (GR 3.35, 5.3)

In the event of the absence of the head of centre or the member of senior leadership with oversight of examination and assessment administration, responsibility for implementing JCQ regulations and requirements relating to after examinations will be escalated to:

- Data & Exam Manager – Paul Thomas to cover Exams officer's absence.
- In the event that the Senior Leader (Deputy Head Teacher – Curriculum) with oversight of examination administration is absent, this responsibility will pass to the Assistant Head Teacher – Progress. In the case that both are absent this responsibility will pass to the Head of Centre.
- Resilience can also be called from exam members of the trust.

To support understanding of the regulations and requirements, sections of relevant JCQ documents will be specifically referenced including:

- General Regulations for Approved Centres (section 5)

Main areas of compliance relate to:

- Results
  Additional JCQ document for reference:
  - Release of Results notice
- Post-results services and appeals
  Additional JCQ documents for reference:
  - Post-Results Services (Information and guidance to centres)
  - JCQ Appeals Booklet (A guide to the awarding organisations appeals processes)
- Certificates