



Exam Policy

Lead Governor	Careers
Updated	Jonny Austin June 2025

Headteacher: Miss Zoë Baines

SLATED ROW SCHOOL | THE ASPIRE FEDERATION, MILTON KEYNES

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1. Introduction and aims

Slated Row School is committed to ensuring that exams are managed and administered effectively.

The aim of this policy is to ensure:

- The planning and management of exams is conducted in the best interest of candidates
- Our system of exams administration is efficient and clear, and staff and pupils understand what is required and expected of them
- We comply with requirements and guidance set out by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and awarding bodies

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Everyone

Everyone involved in our exam processes, including staff and pupils, must read, understand and implement this policy. Senior leaders must also read and refer to the [JCQ general regulations](#).

2.2 Head of Centre

The Head of Centre:

- Has overall responsibility for Slated Row School as an exams centre
- Is the individual who is accountable to the awarding bodies for ensuring that the centre is compliant with the JCQ regulations and awarding body requirements
- Must read and refer to the [JCQ guidelines](#)
- Is responsible for making sure that all staff comply with the [JCQ guidelines](#)
- Is responsible for making sure that all senior leaders and staff involved in exams are familiar with the whole of the [JCQ general regulations](#)
- Is responsible for making sure that all staff receive appropriate training, support and time to facilitate the effective delivery of examinations and assessments, and that they understand the relevant requirements
- Is responsible for making sure that all suspected or actual incidents of malpractice are reported, in line with the JCQ guidance on [malpractice in examinations and assessments](#)
- Ensures that [JCQ guidance for centres on cyber security](#) is followed
- Ensures that accurate candidate contact information is obtained and maintained
- Ensures that required information is provided to the National Centre Number Register and updated, as needed
- Ensures appropriate controls are in place that allow accurate data to be submitted to the awarding bodies by the required deadline, e.g. entries and internally-assessed marks

- Ensures that all reasonable steps are taken to respond promptly to requests for information or documentation made by an awarding body or regulatory authority
- Ensures that candidates are entered under names that can be verified against suitable identification such as a birth certificate, driver's licence or passport – and only entered under alternative names in exceptional circumstances
- Ensures that there are appropriate resources in place at the time of exams – such as readers and scribes – to meet candidates' needs
- Ensures that at least 1 member of staff (a senior designated contact) is available to manage emergency results-related requests from awarding bodies during the summer holidays
- Ensures the security of all assessment materials, and that the materials provided are only shared with appropriate staff and candidates
- Reports any potential or actual breach of examination or assessment materials to the awarding body/bodies immediately
- Retains records of all conflicts of interest including details of the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected

Our Head of Centre is **Ms. Zoe Baines**

2.3 Exams officer

The Exams Officer is responsible for the administration of exams. They:

- Manage the administration of internal and/or external exams
- Must read and refer to the [JCQ guidelines](#)
- Advise the senior leadership team (SLT), subject and class tutors, and other relevant support staff on annual exams timetables and procedures as set by awarding bodies
- Oversee the production and distribution of an annual calendar for all exams in which candidates will be involved, and communicate regularly with staff about imminent deadlines and events. Ensure this calendar is provided to all staff and candidates
- Ensure that candidates and their parents/carers are informed of, and understand, aspects of the exams timetable that will affect them
- Check with teaching staff that the necessary coursework and/or controlled assessments are completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines
- Provide and confirm detailed data on estimated entries
- Maintain systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their exams
- Receive, check and securely store all exam papers and completed scripts, and make sure that scripts are dispatched as per the guidelines
- Download, print (where appropriate) and store electronic assessment materials safely and securely as per the JCQ guidelines
- Administer access arrangements and reasonable adjustments, and make applications for special consideration following the regulations in the JCQ [guidance on the special consideration process](#)
- Identify and manage exam timetable clashes
- Account for income and expenditure relating to all exam costs/charges
- Line manage the senior exams invigilator in organising the recruitment, training and monitoring of a team of exams invigilators responsible for the conduct of exams

- Ensure candidates' coursework/controlled assessment marks are submitted correctly and on schedule, along with any other material required by the awarding bodies
- Track, dispatch and store returned coursework/controlled assessments
- Arrange for dissemination of exam results and certificates to candidates, and forward, in consultation with the senior leadership team (SLT), any post-results service requests
- Report all suspected or actual incidents of malpractice, in line with the JCQ guidance on suspected malpractice in examinations and assessments
- Advise on appeals and re-marks
- Be 1 of the key holders to the secure room where question papers and pre-release materials are stored

Our Exams Officer is **Mr Jonny Austin**

2.4 Curriculum Leaders

Curriculum Leaders, in consultation with Pathway Leaders, are responsible for:

- Advising the exams officer of any changes to syllabus or assessment details for their subjects
- Advising the exams officer of entries for their subjects
- Guidance and pastoral care for candidates who are unsure about exams entries or amendments to entries
- Accurately completing entry and mark sheets, and adhering to deadlines as set by the exams officer
- Accurately completing coursework/controlled assessment mark sheets and declaration sheets
- Decisions on post-results procedures

2.5 Teachers

Teachers are responsible for:

- Supplying information about entries, coursework and controlled assessments as required by the Curriculum Leader and/or the Exams Officer

2.6 Lead invigilator(s)

The lead invigilator(s) are responsible for:

- Assisting the exams officer to run exams efficiently, according to JCQ regulations
- Collecting exam papers and other material from the exams office before the start of the exam
- Collecting all exam papers in the correct order at the end of the exam and ensuring they are returned to the exams office

Our lead invigilator is Sue Wilson.

2.8 Candidates

Candidates are responsible for:

- Confirming and signing entries
- Understanding coursework/controlled assessment regulations, and signing a declaration that confirms the coursework to be their own
- Ensuring they conduct themselves in all exams according to the JCQ regulations

3. Qualifications Offered

The Head of Centre, in consultation with the Deputy Headteacher, decides the qualifications we offer.

We offer the following types of qualifications:

Entry Level & Level 1 / 2 Qualifications

The subjects offered for these qualifications in any school year may be found in our Curriculum Policy.

If there will be a change to a specification for the next year, the exams office must be informed by Easter of the preceding year.

Informing the exams office of changes to a specification is the responsibility of the Deputy Headteacher. Decisions on whether a candidate should be entered for a particular subject will be taken by the Deputy Headteacher in consultation with the class teacher, Pathway Leader and Curriculum Lead.

4. Exam series

Internal exams (mock or trial exams) and assessments are scheduled and completed, where appropriate, in class time.

External exams and assessments (if relevant) are scheduled in the following exam series:

- June 2025

Internal exams are not held under external exam conditions.

The Deputy Headteacher, in consultation with the Head of Centre, decides which exam series are used in the centre.

The centre does not offer assessments on an on-demand basis. If offered, on-demand assessments can be scheduled only in windows agreed between the Exams Officer and the Head of Centre .

5. Exam timetables

Once confirmed, the exams officer will circulate the exam timetables for internal and/or external exams at a specified date before each series begins.

6. Entries (including entry details and late entries)

Candidates or parents/carers can request subject entry, change of level or withdrawal.

We do not accept entries from private candidates.

We do not act as an exams centre for other organisations.

Entry deadlines are circulated to Curriculum Leaders and Pathway Leaders via email.

Curriculum Leaders and Pathway Leaders will provide estimated entry information to the Exams Officer to meet JCQ and awarding body deadlines.

Entries and amendments made after an awarding organisation's deadline require authorisation, in writing, by the Exam's Officer / Exams Administrator.

6.1 Re-Sits

We allow resits (where relevant) for the following types of qualifications:

Functional skills

Re-sit decisions will be made by Curriculum Leaders and the Deputy Headteacher in consultation with the Exams Officer.

7. Exam Fees

Candidates or departments will not be charged for changes of tier, withdrawals made by the proper procedures or alterations arising from administrative processes, provided these are made within the time allowed by the awarding bodies.

The exams officer will publish the deadline for actions well in advance of each exams series.

Candidates may be charged for the following:

Qualification type	When candidates will be charged	Costs
Functional Skills	- Private exam entries - Re-sits at parents/carers' request - Exams not on the set list of prescribed public examinations - Missed exams (without medical or other extenuating circumstances)	- Entries and re-sits: £30 - Missed exams: dependent on charges levied by the exam board

	• Exams or re-sits the pupil has not been prepared for at school, even if they are on the list of prescribed public examinations • Withdrawal from an exam (where charges would be applied by an exam board), if the parent/carer requests withdrawal • Requests for re-marking, not supported by the school • Requests for access to scripts, not supported by the school	
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We may waive these fees in certain circumstances. If you would like to discuss waiving relevant fees, please contact the Exams Officer

8. Equalities

All our staff must ensure that they meet the requirements of any equality legislation.

We will comply with the legislation, including making reasonable adjustments to the service that we provide to candidates in accordance with the requirements defined by the legislation, awarding bodies and JCQ. This is the responsibility of the Head of Centre and Exams Officer.

9. Access arrangements

The subject teachers of candidates will inform the Exams Officer of any special arrangements that individual candidates will need during the course and in any assessments/exams.

A candidate's access arrangements requirement is determined by the Exams Officer.

Ensuring there is appropriate evidence for a candidate's access arrangement is the responsibility of the Exams Officer and class teacher.

Submitting completed access arrangement and reasonable adjustment applications to the awarding bodies is the responsibility of the Exams Officer.

Room arrangements for candidates using access arrangements and reasonable adjustments will be organised by the Exams Officer.

Invigilation and support for candidates using access arrangements, as defined in the [JCQ access arrangements regulations](#), will be organised by the Exams Officer and lead invigilator. Where candidates sit their examinations in a smaller environment away from the main examination room (the suitability of which is to be assessed in conjunction with JCQ access arrangements and adjustments regulations) the JCQ's regulations and guidance must be adhered to.

See chapter 5 of the [JCQ access arrangements and adjustments regulations](#) for details on the types of adjustments that may be considered, as well as the procedures involved.

Further information can be found in SRS Exams: Internal Appeals Procedure Policy

9.1 Use of word processors

We may allocate the use of a word processor to a candidate as part of access arrangements or as a reasonable adjustment where appropriate, including:

- When it is their normal way of working, i.e. where the curriculum is delivered electronically and word processors are provided to all candidates
- If they need support with handwriting
- If they have a:
 - Physical disability
 - Learning difficulty that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to write legibly
 - Medical condition
 - Sensory impairment

The Exams Officer will use their judgement, in collaboration with relevant members of staff where necessary, to make decisions about when a word processor is appropriate outside the specific listed examples above.

We will make sure that:

- The proposed arrangement will not disadvantage or advantage a candidate.
- The use of a word processor will not compromise the assessment objectives or the integrity of the assessment and will be used under secure conditions. Where these objectives would be compromised, then a word processor will not be granted for use by a candidate

We will also make sure that the word processor:

- Has the spelling and grammar check and predictive text software disabled
- Does not have internet connectivity during the exam
- Has been cleared of any previously stored data, along with any portable storage medium used (and where any authorised memory stick is provided to or used by the candidate, the memory stick will be cleared of any previously stored data)
- Does not allow access to other applications such as a calculator (where prohibited), spreadsheets or emails

- Does not have graphic packages or computed-aided design software, unless permission is given
- Does not have computer reading (text to speech) software, unless the candidate has permission
- Does not have speech recognition technology, unless the candidate has permission

The word processor will not be used on the candidate's behalf by a third party unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe.

All equipment will be checked to make sure it's in working order and sufficiently charged for the duration of the examination.

Candidates provided with the use of a word processor will be accommodated in such a way that other candidates are not disturbed and cannot read the screen. Where we accommodate a candidate in another room, a separate invigilator will be present.

Candidates will be:

- Reminded to make sure that the centre number, candidate number and the unit/component code appear on each page as a header or footer, or to handwrite their details on the printed documents where this feature is not available (where the candidate needs to handwrite their details, they will be supervised to make sure that's solely what they're doing and not re-reading their answers or amending their work in any way)
- Reminded to save their work at regular intervals, unless 'autosave' has been set up on the device to make sure that the candidate's work is not lost because of a technical issue
- Advised to use a minimum font size of 12pt and double spacing

Each page of the typed script will be numbered.

The word processor will be connected to a printer so that the script can be printed off and will be done once the examination is over. The candidate must be present to verify that the work is their own and then the script will be attached to any answer booklet that contains some of the answers. We may also be required by the awarding body to include a word processor cover sheet with the candidate's typed script.

We may retain electronic copies of a word-processed script and this may be accepted by an awarding body where the printed copy has been lost and it is demonstrated that the file has been kept securely.

10. Contingency planning & Resilience

Contingency planning for exam administration is the responsibility of the Head of Centre and Exams Officer. They are responsible for:

- Being familiar with the regulators' guidance on ensuring resilience in the qualification system
- Making sure that we have robust contingency arrangements in place that will minimise the risk to exams
- Ensuring that we have an up-to-date, written examination contingency plan that covers all aspects of examination/assessment administration, in accordance with JCQ guidelines

All relevant centre staff must be familiar with the contingency plans, which are available via email and are in line with the [guidance provided by Ofqual](#), JCQ and awarding organisations.

It is the responsibility of the Exams Officer to put in place a process for gathering evidence of candidate performance in line with the guidance provided by Ofqual.

11. Estimated grades

Curriculum Leaders, in consultation with the class teacher, are responsible for submitting estimated grades to the exams officer when requested.

12. Managing invigilators

External staff will not be used to invigilate examinations. The head of centre, a senior member of centre staff, such as an assistant headteacher, or the exams officer will ensure that (where possible) a teacher, teaching assistant, tutor or senior member of centre staff who teaches the subject being examined, or a learning support assistant who has supported 1 or more candidates, is not an invigilator during the examination.

Recruitment of invigilators is the responsibility of the Exams Officer and Lead Invigilator and any new invigilators and/or those facilitating an access arrangement or reasonable adjustment for a candidate under examination conditions will receive thorough training on JCQ guidelines.

If invigilators require Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, Exams Officer and Lead Invigilator is/are responsible for obtaining these.

DBS fees are paid by the centre.

Invigilators rates of pay are set by the Head of Centre.

Invigilators are recruited, timetabled, trained and briefed by the the Head of Centre and the Lead Invigilator.

13. Malpractice

The centre will take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice before, during and after assessment has taken place. The head of centre, in consultation with the exams officer, is responsible for ensuring that suspected malpractice is thoroughly investigated. Malpractice does not necessarily involve an intention to cheat or gain an unfair advantage. Examples of malpractice include, but are not limited to:

- Unauthorised use of a mobile phone or internet-enabled device in examinations
- Copying or allowing work to be copied

- Posting work on social media prior to an exam
- Collusion or working collaboratively

Candidates and invigilators will receive written guidance that will also be shared at the beginning of each examination. If malpractice is suspected or reported, it will be investigated by the Exams Officer, then escalated to Head of Centre.

14. Exam days

The Exams Officer will:

- Book all exam rooms (after liaising with other relevant users)
- Make question papers, exam stationery and materials available for the invigilator

Site management staff are responsible for setting up the allocated rooms, and will be advised of requirements 7 days in advance.

The Exam Officer will start and finish all exams in accordance with [JCQ guidelines](#).

Subject staff may be present at the start of the exam to assist with identification of candidates. Any staff present must be in accordance with the rules defined by JCQ concerning who is allowed in the exam room and what they can do.

In practical exams, subject teachers' availability will be in accordance with [JCQ guidelines](#).

Exam papers must not be read by subject teachers or removed from the exam room before the end of a session. Papers will be distributed to Curriculum Leaders in accordance with JCQ's recommendations and no later than two hours after candidates have completed them.

After an exam, the Exams Officer will arrange for the safe dispatch of completed exam scripts to awarding bodies, working in conjunction with the Exams Administrator.

Emergency evacuation of the examination room will be outlined within the centre's exam contingency policy, which will be subject to inspection by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service.

In the event of an emergency, a full report of the incident must be produced and retained on file and any breach of question paper security or malpractice must be reported to the awarding body immediately.

15. Candidates

The Exams Officer will provide written information to candidates in advance of each exam series. A formal briefing session for candidates may be given by the Exams Officer.

Our published rules on acceptable dress and behaviour apply at all times. Candidates' personal belongings remain their own responsibility and we accept no liability for their loss or damage.

In an exam room, candidates must not have access to items other than those clearly allowed in the instructions on the question paper, the stationery list, or the specification for that subject.

This is particularly true of mobile phones and other electronic devices with text or digital facilities.

Any precluded items must not be taken into the exam room.

Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Candidates are expected to stay for the full exam time at the discretion of the Exams Officer

Candidates who leave an exam room must be accompanied by an appropriate member of staff at all times.

The Exams Officer is responsible for handling late or absent candidates on exam day.

16. Special consideration

If a candidate is unable to attend an exam because of illness, bereavement, or other trauma, or if a candidate becomes ill or otherwise disadvantaged during an exam, they are responsible for alerting the Exams Officer to that effect.

The candidate must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence within 2 days of the exam.

The exams officer will make a special consideration application to the relevant awarding body within 5 days of the exam.

17. Non-examination assessments

Teaching staff who deliver non-examination assessments for GCEs and GCSEs will follow the correct specifications and the specification and instructions provided by the awarding body, and/or JCQ instructions for conducting non-examination assessments, if appropriate. Teaching staff will also check that the tasks and approach being taken are appropriate and in line with ethical standards and the centre's safeguarding responsibilities.

Further information is available in the Non Examination Assessment Policy

It is the duty of Curriculum Leads, in consultation with the Exams Officer, to ensure that all non-examination assessment is ready for dispatch at the correct time. The Exams Officer / Exam Administrator will assist by keeping a record of each dispatch, including the recipient details, and the date and time sent.

Marks for internally assessed work are provided to the Exams Office by class teacher, due to the relatively small cohort sizes. The Exams Officer will inform staff of the deadline date for appeals against internal assessments.

Any appeals will be dealt with in accordance with our internal appeals procedure document.

17.1 Artificial intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, pupils and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Bard. Slated Row School recognises that AI has many uses to help pupils learn, but may also lend itself to cheating and plagiarism.

Pupils **may not** use AI tools:

- During assessments, including internal and external assessments, and coursework
- To write their homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text is presented as their own work

Pupils **may** use AI tools:

- As a research tool to help them find out about new topics and ideas
- When specifically studying and discussing AI in schoolwork, for example in IT lessons or art homework about AI-generated images., all AI-generated content must be properly attributed

Where a pupil uses an AI tool, the pupil should retain a copy of the question(s) asked and the AI-generated responses. Pupils must submit this along with the work to be assessed.

Staff should:

- Be aware that AI tools are still being developed and tested
- Use AI tools with caution as they may provide inaccurate, inappropriate or biased content
- Make students aware of the risks of using AI tools and that they need to appropriately reference AI as a source of information to maintain the integrity of assessments

Staff **must not**:

- Use AI as the sole means of marking candidates' work

For more information on AI misuse, see [guidance from JCQ on AI use in assessments](#). Any misuse of AI tools may be treated as malpractice.

18. Results and certificates

Candidates will receive individual results slips on results days, if individually requested. Due to the nature of the examinations, the majority of students will receive the results of their examinations in person, at school, in term time.

The results slip will not be in the form of a centre-produced document.

In exceptional circumstances, arrangements for the centre to be open on results days will be made by the Exams Officer and relevant site staff.

The provision of the necessary staff on results days is the responsibility of the Exams Officer and Head of Centre.

Dates of results days each year will be publicised for all candidates through letters home where necessary.

18.1 Enquiries about results (EARs)

Enquiries about results (EARs) may be requested by centre staff or the candidate following the release of results.

A request for a re-mark or clerical check requires the written consent of the candidate. A request for a re-moderation of internally assessed work may be submitted without the consent of a group of candidates.

The cost of EARs will be paid by the centre in the event of centre staff requesting a remark; it will be paid by the candidate in the event that they are requesting the remark.

The cost of EARs is set out in section 7 of this policy ('Exam fees').

All decisions about whether to make an application for an EAR will be made by Curriculum Leaders and Exam Officer.

If a candidate's request for an EAR is not supported, the candidate may appeal and we will respond by following the process in our internal appeals procedure document.

All processing of EARs will be the responsibility of the Exams Officer and Head of Centre, following the JCQ guidance.

18.2 Access to scripts (ATS)

After the release of results, candidates may ask subject staff to request the return of written exam papers within 10 days of the receipt of results.

Centre staff may also request scripts for investigation or for teaching purposes. For the latter, the consent of candidates must be obtained.

Applications for EARs cannot be submitted once an original script has been returned.

Exam Officer is responsible for processing requests for ATS.

The cost of ATS will be paid by the centre, if requested by the centre; it will be paid by the candidate in the event that they are requesting the ATS.

The cost of ATS is set out in section 7 of this policy ('Exam fees').

18.3 Certificates

Candidates will receive their certificate in person at school.

Certificates can be collected on behalf of a candidate by third parties, provided they have written authority from the candidate to do so and bring suitable indications with them that confirms who they are.

The centre retains certificates for 3 years, but will make every attempt to contact students prior to this.

A new certificate will not be issued by an awarding organization except in certain specific circumstances (such as a change of gender or identity). A transcript of results may be issued if a candidate agrees to pay the costs incurred.

19. Monitoring and review

The Head of Centre is responsible for ensuring that this policy is reviewed every 3 years.

20. Links with other policies

This policy links with our policies on:

- Exam contingency plan
- Whistle-blowing policy
- Conflict of interests policy
- Complaints policy
- Exams General data protection policy