

Examination Contingency Plan September 2025

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Approved by:	Impact North West Schools Proprietor Board
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1. Aims

This plan aims to:

- Examine potential risks and issues that could cause disruption to the management and administration of exams.
- Mitigate the impact of disruptions 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.

This plan also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association. It's also based on:

- Ofqual's guidance on contingency planning
- JCQ's joint contingency plan

3. Responsibilities

3.1 Head of centre

The head of Centre is Jayne Jones. She will ensure that a written examination contingency plan/examinations policy is in place and covers all aspects of examination administration.

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 Alisha Pritchard before each exam series. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

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5. Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Examination policy

6. Contingency plan

The table overleaf sets out examples of scenarios where a contingency plan may be needed to minimise risk to examination administration. These are based on the JCQ's joint contingency plan, and are consistent with Ofqual's current contingency planning guidance.

- Absence of exam officers, teaching staff and/or invigilators
- Lack of appropriately trained invigilators
- Failure of IT systems
- Lack of appropriate exam rooms
- Emergency evacuation of the exam room (or centre lock down)
- Markers unable to mark papers according to schedule

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SCENARIO	WHEN TO IMPLEMENT	ACTIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
Disruption of teaching time in the weeks before an exam – centre is 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, e.g. if the centre is forced to close	● Seek advice from relevant awarding organisations and JCQ ● Have a contingency plan to facilitate alternative methods of learning, alternative venues or both ● Offer candidates an opportunity to sit any examinations missed at the next available series	Jayne Jones Holly Cottrell
Candidates unable to take examinations because of a crisis – centre remains open	In the event that candidates are unable to attend examination centres to take examinations as normal, e.g. sickness bug, or if they are self-isolating due to coronavirus	● Communicate any changes to your plans with parents, carers and pupils ● Communicate with relevant awarding organisations at the outset to make them aware of the issue ● Liaise with candidates to identify whether the examination can be sat at an alternative venue in agreement with relevant awarding organisations ● Communicate any changes to your plans with parents and pupils ● Offer candidates an opportunity to sit any examinations missed at	Jayne Jones Holly Cottrell

		the next available series • Apply to awarding organisations for special consideration for candidates where they have met the minimum requirements	
Centre is unable to open as normal during the examination period	In the event that the centre is unable to open as normal for scheduled examinations, e.g. a fire at the centre, or increasing rates of coronavirus forces it to close	• 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 • Use alternative venues in agreement with relevant awarding organisations • Communicate any changes to your plans with parents, carers and pupils • 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	Jayne Jones Holly Cottrell

Disruption in the distribution of examination papers	In the event that there is disruption to the distribution of examination papers to centres in advance of examinations	- 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, you will receive electronic access to papers via a secure external network - You will need to have plans in place to ensure you can receive, make and store papers under secure conditions - As a last resort, your awarding organisation may consider rescheduling the examination	Jayne Jones Holly Cottrell
Disruption to the transportation of completed examination scripts	In the event that there is a delay in normal collection arrangements for completed examination scripts	- 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 and make sure papers are securely stored until collection - Ensure secure storage of completed examination papers until collection - If your centre makes its own transportation arrangements,	Jayne Jones Holly Cottrell

		investigate alternative arrangements that comply with the JCQ's instructions for conducting examinations	
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 at the centre destroys completed examination scripts	• 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	Jayne Jones Holly Cottrell Jo Smith
Centre is unable to distribute results as normal or facilitate post results services	In the event that the centre is unable to access or manage the distribution of results to candidates, or to facilitate post results services	• Contact awarding organisations about alternative options • 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 post results requests are not possible	Jayne Jones Holly Cottrell