



Emergency Evacuation Policy (exams)

2025/26

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Approved/reviewed by	
Mr A Hammersley (Head teacher)	
Signed:	
Date of next review	April 2027

Emergency Evacuation Policy (exams)

Centre name	Academy@Worden
Centre number	46719
Date policy first created	12/03/2026
Current policy approved by	Mr A Hammersley (Headteacher)
Current policy reviewed by	Mr A Hammersley (Headteacher)
Date of review	01/04/2026
Date of next review	01/04/2027

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Mr A Hammersley
Senior leader(s)	Mr P Cairns Mrs L Wood Mr S Porter Mr J Haworth Mrs J Cairns Mrs V Dovey
Exams officer	Mrs A Kearton
SENCo (or equivalent role)	Mrs V Dovey
Other staff (if applicable)	

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that emergency evacuation from examination rooms at Academy@Worden is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to ICE refer to the JCQ document **Instructions for conducting examinations**.

Introduction

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements at Academy@Worden for dealing with an emergency evacuation of an examination room by defining staff roles and responsibilities and confirming the emergency evacuation procedure.

This policy ensures compliance with JCQ regulations (ICE 25) which state that centres must have a written policy for dealing with emergency evacuation of the examination room which will be subject to inspection by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service.

An emergency evacuation is required where it is unsafe for candidates to remain in the examination room. This might include a fire, the fire alarm sounding to warn of fire, bomb alert or other serious threat.

In exceptional situations, where candidates might be severely disadvantaged or distressed by remaining in the room, the emergency evacuation procedure may also need to be followed. This might include situations where there is severe disruption in the examination room, serious illness of a candidate or invigilator or similarly serious incidents.

As each incident may be different, advice will be sought (if applicable) from the relevant awarding body as soon as it is safe to do so (ICE 25.6)

Where candidates are unable to return to the building to complete the examination, the relevant awarding body will be contacted immediately for advice (ICE 25.6)

Roles and responsibilities

Head of Centre

- Ensure that the emergency evacuation policy for examinations is fit for purpose and complies with relevant health and safety regulation
- Ensure that any instructions from relevant local or national agencies are referenced and followed where applicable (ICE 25.1)
- Ensures any breach of question paper security or malpractice is reported to the awarding body **immediately** (ICE 25.5)

Senior Leader

- Where responsible for the centre-wide emergency evacuation procedure, ensure that all staff and appointed fire marshals are aware of the policy and procedures to be followed when an emergency evacuation of an examination room is required

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) or equivalent role

- Ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the emergency evacuation of a disabled candidate from an examination room where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for the candidate
- Ensure that the candidate is informed prior to taking their examinations of what will happen in the event of an emergency evacuation

Exams Officer

- Ensure that invigilators are trained in emergency evacuation procedures and how an incident and actions taken must be recorded
- Ensure that candidates are briefed prior to examinations taking place, on what will happen in the event of an emergency in the examination room
- Provide invigilators with a copy of the emergency evacuation procedure in every exam room
- Provide a standard invigilator announcement for each exam room which includes appropriate instructions for candidates about emergency procedures and what will happen if the fire alarm sounds
- Provide an exam room incident log in every examination room

- Liaise with relevant staff prior to each examination session where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- Brief invigilators prior to each examination session where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- Ensure that appropriate follow-up is undertaken after an emergency evacuation, reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken
- Ensure a full report of the incident is produced and retained on file if required by an awarding body (ICE 25.4)
- Ensure an online application for special consideration is submitted to the relevant awarding body where candidates have been disadvantaged (ICE 25.7)

Invigilators

- By attending training and/or update sessions, ensure they understand what to do in the event of an emergency in the examination room
- Follow the actions required in the emergency evacuation procedure issued to them for every examination room
- Confirm with the exams officer, where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate they are invigilating
- Record details on the exam room incident log to support follow-up reporting to the awarding body by the exams officer (see below)

Other relevant centre staff

- Recording details
- As soon as practically possible and safe to do so, the following details will be recorded (see Roles and Responsibilities for the members of staff who will record these details):
- The actual time of the start of the interruption
- The actions taken
- The actual time the exam(s) resumed
- The actual finishing time(s) of the resumed exam(s)

Recording details

- As soon as practically possible and safe to do so, details should be recorded. Details must include:
- The actual time of the start of the interruption
- The actions taken
- The actual time the exam(s) resumed
- The actual finishing time(s) of the resumed exam(s)

Further details could include:

- Report on candidate behaviour throughout the interruption/evacuation
- A judgement on the impact on candidates after the interruption/evacuation

For on-screen assessments:

- Candidates must be closely supervised if an emergency evacuation of the assessment room occurs
- Invigilators should refer to any software specific instructions to safeguard the security of the assessment content and candidates' responses (For example, pausing the assessment for all candidates and locking the evacuated assessment room without closing down the software)
- Invigilators should understand the procedures for re-starting an on-screen assessment after an emergency evacuation of the assessment room, controlling the re-starting of the assessment, re-setting the timing and ensuring, where appropriate, candidates can access their previous responses

In the event of a fire alarm, invigilators are trained to:

- Follow the actions required in the emergency evacuation procedure issued to them for every exam room
- Confirm with the exams officer, where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate they are invigilating
- Record details on the exam room incident log to support follow-up reporting to the awarding body by the exams officer (see below)

When/if allowed to return to the examination room, invigilators allow candidates time to settle down, reminding them they are still under formal examination conditions and that they must not open their answer booklets until instructed to do so.

Invigilators announce clearly to candidates when they may begin and how much time they have (the examination will formally restart at this point)

Invigilators record the time the examination(s) restarted and amend the displayed finishing time(s) for all candidates to see.

Invigilators are trained to record as much detail on the exam room incident log when able to do so (ensuring candidates are continually supervised and giving complete attention to this duty at all times) and to ensure the exams officer is fully briefed at the end of the examination(s) to enable a full report to be submitted to the awarding body/bodies.

Where not allowed to return to the examination room, or the decision is made by the appropriate authority that the examination(s) cannot be resumed, the centre's examination contingency plan will be invoked and invigilators/candidates briefed accordingly at the time.

Emergency evacuation procedure

Invigilators are trained in this procedure and understand the actions they must take in the event of a fire alarm or bomb alert or other emergency that leads to an evacuation of the exam room.

Emergency evacuation procedure
Actions to be taken (as detailed in current JCQ Instructions for conducting examinations section 25, Emergencies)
Stop the candidates from writing
Collect the attendance register (in order to ensure all candidates are present)
Evacuate the examination room in line with the instructions given by the appropriate authority
Advise candidates to leave all question papers and scripts in the examination room Candidates must be advised to close their answer booklet
Ensure candidates leave the room in silence. Candidates in separate rooms to follow the instructions of the invigilators. Candidates to not speak to anyone apart from the invigilator whilst vacating the exam room Candidates in the sports hall to follow the instructions from the Exams officer. To vacate the Sports Hall via the exit and walk around school. Candidates must be supervised at all times to ensure they do not communicate with any other candidate and only speak to the Exams officer if they have any queries.
Ensure the candidates are supervised as closely as possible while they are out of the examination room so that there is no discussion about the examination
Make a note of the time of the interruption and how long it lasted
Allow the candidates the remainder of the working time set for the examination once it resumes
If there are only a few candidates, consider the possibility of taking the candidates (with question papers and scripts) to another place to finish the examination
Make a full report of the incident and of the action taken, (to be retained on file if required by an awarding body) and send to the relevant awarding body

If there are only a few candidates, the possibility is considered of taking the candidates (with question papers and scripts collected by the invigilator) to another place to finish the examination. A full report is made of the incident and of the actions taken (and retained on file if required by an awarding body)