

Internal Appeals Procedure (access arrangements, special consideration and other administrative issues) 23-24

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."
Jeremiah 17:7-8

This policy document and the content contained therein remains the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school. No amendments can be made without their express instructions and they remain the final arbiters in any matters relating to it.

Review Date: Autumn Term 2023

Next Review Date: Autumn Term 2024

Reviewed By: Mr A Holland

APPROVED BY THE HEADTEACHER – Autumn Term 2023

Internal Appeals Procedure (access arrangements, special consideration and other administrative issues)

Centre Name	Balshaw's CE High School
Centre Number	46711
Date procedure first created	23/01/2024
Current procedure approved by	Mr S Haycocks
Current procedure reviewed by	Mr A Holland
Date of next review	23/10/2024

Key staff involved in the procedure

Role	Name
Head of centre	Mr S Haycocks
Senior leader(s)	Mr A Holland
Exams officer	Miss C Brook
ALS lead/SENCo	Mrs M Rogerson
Other staff (if applicable)	

This procedure is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that appeals against any decision at Balshaw's CE High school relating to access arrangements and special consideration or other administrative issues are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in this procedure to GR refers to the JCQ publication **General Regulations for Approved Centres**.

This procedure is also informed by the JCQ publications **A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes** (chapters 3, 7), **A guide to the special consideration process** (sections 1, 2, 6), **Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments** (Importance of these regulations), **GR** (section 5.4) and **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures** (section 3.3).

Purpose of the procedure

This procedure ensures compliance with JCQ regulations (GR 5.3) which state that centres must have in place and available for inspection, a written internal appeals procedure which must cover at least appeals regarding centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration.

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

Balshaw's CE High school will:

- comply with the principles and regulations governing access arrangements and reasonable adjustments as set out in the JCQ publication **Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments**
- ensure that all staff who manage and implement access arrangements and reasonable adjustments are aware of the requirements and are appropriately supported and resourced

In accordance with the regulations, Balshaw's CE High school:

- recognises its duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, through the access arrangements process submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates
- complies with its responsibilities in identifying, determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

Failure to comply with the regulations has the potential to constitute malpractice which may impact on a candidate's result(s).

Examples of failure to comply include:

- putting in place access arrangements/adjustments that are not approved
- failing to consider putting in place access arrangements (which may be a failure to comply with the duty to make reasonable adjustments)
- permitting access arrangements/adjustments within the centre which are not supported by appropriate evidence
- charging a fee for providing reasonable adjustments to disabled candidates

Special consideration

Special consideration is given to a candidate who has temporarily experienced illness, injury or some other event outside of their control at the time of the assessment. It is applied when the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a candidate's ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment.

Balshaw's CE High school will:

- comply with the requirements as set out in the JCQ publication **A guide to the special consideration process**
- ensure that all staff who manage and administer special consideration applications are aware of the requirements

Where Balshaw's CE High school has appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team to support an application, it will apply for special consideration at the time of the assessment for the affected candidate/candidates.

Centre decisions relating to access arrangements/reasonable adjustments and special consideration

This may include:

- a decision not to award/apply for a specific access arrangement/reasonable adjustment or to apply for special consideration, in circumstances where a candidate does not meet the criteria for, or there is no evidence/insufficient evidence to support the implementation of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment or the application of special consideration

Where Balshaw's CE High school makes a decision in relation to the access arrangement(s)/reasonable adjustment(s) or special consideration that apply for a candidate or candidates:

- If a candidate who is the subject of the relevant decision (or the candidate's parent/carer) disagrees with the decision made and reasonably believes that the centre has not complied with its responsibilities or followed due procedures, a written request setting out the grounds for appeal should be submitted
- An internal appeals form should be completed within five working days of being informed about a decision.

To determine the outcome of the appeal, the head of centre will consult the respective JCQ publication to confirm the centre has complied with the principles and regulations governing access arrangements/reasonable adjustments and/or special consideration and followed due procedures.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within five working days from the appeal being received and logged by the centre.

If the appeal is upheld, Balshaw's CE High school will proceed to implement the necessary arrangements/submit the necessary application.

Appeals regarding centre decisions relating to other administrative issues

Circumstances may arise that cause Balshaw's CE High school to make decisions on other administrative issues that may affect a candidate's examinations/assessments.

Where Balshaw's CE High school may make a decision that affects a candidate or candidates:

- If a candidate who is the subject of the relevant decision (or the candidate's parent/carer) disagrees with the decision made and reasonably believes that the centre has not complied with its responsibilities or followed due procedures, a written request setting out the grounds for appeal should be submitted
- An internal appeals form should be completed within five working days of the decision being made known to the appellant.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within five working days of the appeal being received and logged by the centre.