



Montgomery
Academy

Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Malpractice Policy (Exams)

Policy Review Date: March 2027

Key staff involved in policy/procedure

Role	Name(s)
Head of centre	Stephen Careless
Exams officer line manager- Senior Deputy Headteacher	Clare Montgomery
Exams officer/s	Hayley Hutchinson & Adele Barnacle

Introduction

What is malpractice and maladministration? ‘

Malpractice’ and ‘maladministration’ are related concepts, the common theme of which is that they involve a failure to follow the rules of an examination or assessment. This policy and procedure use the word ‘malpractice’ to cover both ‘malpractice’ and ‘maladministration’ and it means any act, default or practice which is:

- a breach of the Regulations
- a breach of awarding body requirements regarding how a qualification should be delivered
- a failure to follow established procedures in relation to a qualification which:
- gives rise to prejudice to candidates
compromises public confidence in qualifications
- compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of a result or certificate
- damages the authority, reputation or credibility of any awarding body or centre or any officer, employee or agent of any awarding body or centre - Suspected Malpractices Policies and Procedures 1 (SMPP 1)

Candidate malpractice

‘Candidate malpractice’ means malpractice by a candidate in connection with any examination or assessment, including the preparation and authentication of any controlled assessments, coursework or non-examination assessments, the presentation of any practical work, the compilation of portfolios of assessment evidence and the writing of any examination paper.

Centre staff malpractice

‘Centre staff malpractice’ means malpractice committed by:

* a member of staff, contractor (whether employed under a contract of employment or a contract for services) or a volunteer at a centre; or

* an individual appointed in another capacity by a centre such as an invigilator, a Communication Professional, a Language Modifier, a practical assistant, a prompter, a reader or a scribe.

Suspected malpractice

For the purposes of this document, suspected malpractice means all alleged or suspected incidents of malpractice.

General Principles

In accordance with the regulations Montgomery Academy will:

- Take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after examinations have taken place.
- Inform the awarding body immediately of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, by completing the appropriate documentation.
- As required by an awarding body, gather evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) in accordance with the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures and provide such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require.

Preventing malpractice

Montgomery Academy has in place:

- Robust processes to prevent and identify malpractice, as outlined in section 3 of the JCQ publication **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures**.
- This includes ensuring that all staff involved in the delivery of assessments and examinations understand the requirements for conducting these as specified in the following JCQ documents and any further awarding body guidance:
 - General Regulations for Approved Centres 2025-2026; o Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE) 2025-2026;
 - Instructions for conducting coursework 2025-2026;
 - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments 2025-2026;
 - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2025-2026;
 - A guide to the special consideration process 2025-2026; Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures 2025-2026;
 - Plagiarism in Assessments;
 - AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications; A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes 2025-2026.

Informing and advising candidates

Montgomery Academy will provide candidates with information ahead of exams, this will also be included in assemblies and presentations with candidates. Candidates will also be directed to information provided by JCQ for further guidance.

The candidates are informed of what Malpractice is and how it can affect them in line with current JCQ policy guidance (Suspected Malpractice Policies and Procedures).

For any assessments that could be affected by the use of AI, the teaching staff will inform the candidates of the regulations of if/when AI technology can be used, and also the consequences of its misuse. Staff have been directed towards the AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications guidance.

Candidates are informed of the 'Warning to Candidates' and 'Unauthorised Items' posters which are also outside all exam rooms. The Suggested wording for "starting instruction announcements" at the beginning of written examinations also details what can and cannot be done in the exam environment and is read out at the beginning of every exam.

Identification and reporting of malpractice

As soon as suspected malpractice is suspected during the exam process, the Exams Officer is made aware and discusses with the witness/s. All details are logged and statements from all parties are completed/signed. Relevant JCQ form completed and is signed by the witness/s. The candidate is then informed of the incident and the potential impact that it may have on their results. They are asked if they agree with the statement and if they would like to add a statement.

The checklist on Form M1 is followed for candidate malpractice.

The checklist on Form M2/M3 is followed for centre/staff maladministration/malpractice.

Reporting suspected malpractice to the awarding body

- The exams officer or head of centre will notify the appropriate awarding body immediately of all alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice, using the appropriate forms, and will conduct any investigation and gathering of information in accordance with the requirements of the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures.
- The head of centre will ensure that where a candidate who is a child/vulnerable adult is the subject of a malpractice investigation, the candidate's parent/carer/ appropriate adult is kept informed of the progress of the investigation.
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of candidate malpractice. Form JCQ/M2 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of suspected staff malpractice/maladministration.
- Malpractice by a candidate discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment component prior to the candidate signing the declaration of authentication need not be reported to the awarding body but will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's internal procedures. The only exception to this is where the awarding body's confidential assessment material has potentially been breached. The breach will be reported to the awarding body immediately.
- If, in the view of the investigator, there is sufficient evidence to implicate an individual in malpractice, that individual (a candidate or a member of staff) will be informed of the rights of accused individuals

- Once the information gathering has concluded, the head of centre (or other appointed information-gatherer) will submit a written report summarising the information obtained and actions taken to the relevant awarding body, accompanied by the information obtained during the course of their enquiries
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used when reporting candidate cases; for centre staff, form JCQ/M3 will be used
- The awarding body will decide on the basis of the report, and any supporting documentation, whether there is evidence of malpractice and if any further investigation is required. The head of centre will be informed accordingly

Communicating malpractice decisions

Once a decision has been made, it will be communicated in writing to the head of centre as soon as possible. The head of centre will communicate the decision to the individuals concerned and pass on details of any sanctions and action in cases where this is indicated. The head of centre will also inform the individuals if they have the right to appeal.

Appeals against decisions made in cases of malpractice

Montgomery Academy will:

- Provide the individual with information on the process and timeframe for submitting an appeal, where relevant
- Refer to further information and follow the process provided in the JCQ publication A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes

Responsibilities

Head of centre

- notify the appropriate awarding body immediately of all alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice
- review and sign any Malpractice cases prior to submission
- ensure that where a candidate who is a child/vulnerable adult is the subject of a malpractice investigation, the candidate's parent/carer/ appropriate adult is kept informed of the progress of the investigation .
- pass on details of any sanctions and action in cases where this is indicated

Senior Leaders

- Ensure that centre staff are aware of the requirement to adhere to the examinations regulations, instances that class as Malpractice and the Malpractice process

Exams Office/officer

- Complete the administrative process for any cases of Suspected Malpractice
- Identify and follow the awarding body's administrative process for malpractice
- Retain the records of any cases of Malpractice.