



Exams Archiving Policy

FEBRUARY 2026

(reviewed Feb 2027)

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- identify exams-related information/records held by the exams office
- identify the retention period
- determine the action required at the end of the retention period and method of disposal
- inform/supplement the centre-wide records management policy

The policy is annually reviewed to ensure that records are archived/retained in accordance with current requirements.

Record type	Record(s) description (where required)	Retention information/period	Action at end of retention period (method of disposal)
Access arrangements information	Any hard copy information kept by the EO relating to an access arrangement candidate.	To be returned to Sue Stephenson (SENCo) at end of the candidate's final exam series.	
Attendance register copies		To be retained until the deadline for EARs or the resolution of any outstanding enquiries/appeals for the relevant exams series. [Reference ICE 6,15]	Confidential waste/shredding
Awarding body administrative guides/manuals	Any hard copy publications provided by awarding bodies.	To be retained until the current academic year update is provided.	
Candidates' work	Non-examination assessment work (incl. controlled assessment/coursework) returned to the centre after awarding body moderation.	To be immediately returned to subject staff as records owner. To be stored safely and securely along with work that did not form part of the moderation sample (including materials stored electronically) until after the deadline for EARs or the resolution of any outstanding enquiries/appeals or malpractice investigations for the exam series. [Reference GR 3, 5]	Returned to candidates or safe disposal
Certificates		Unclaimed/uncollected certificates to be retained securely for a minimum of 12 months from date of issue. [Reference GR 5]	Confidential destruction
Certificate destruction information	A record of unclaimed certificates that have been destroyed.	To be retained for 4 years from the date of certificate destruction. [Reference GR 5]	Confidential waste/shredding

Certificate issue information	A record of certificates that have been issued to candidates.	[Reference GR 5]	
Confidential materials delivery logs	A log recording confidential materials delivered by awarding bodies to the centre and issued to authorised staff.		Confidential waste/shredding

Record type	Record(s) description (where required)	Retention information/period	Action at end of retention period (method of disposal)
Confidential materials tracking logs	A log to track materials taken from or returned to secure storage throughout the time the material is confidential.	To be retained until results	Confidential waste/shredding
Dispatch logs	Proof of dispatch of exam script packages to awarding body examiners covered by the DfE (Standards & Testing Agency) yellow label service	To be retained until results	Confidential waste/shredding
Entry information	Any hard copy information relating to candidates' entries.	To be retained until results	Confidential waste/shredding
Exam question papers	Question papers for timetabled written exams.	<p>Issued to teaching staff 24 hours after the exam.</p> <p>Instructions issued by an individual awarding body relating to the use of question papers for vocational qualifications after the examination has taken place are followed.</p> <p>[Reference ICE 16 and GR 6,5]</p>	
Exam room checklists	Checklists confirming room conditions and invigilation arrangements for each exam room.	<p>To be retained until the deadline for EARs or the resolution of any outstanding enquiries/appeals for the relevant exams series.</p> <p>[Reference ICE 6]</p>	Confidential waste/shredding

Exam room incident logs	Logs recording any incidents or irregularities in exam rooms.	To be retained until results	Confidential waste/shredding
Exam stationery		When awarding body or JCQ common stationery is considered surplus or is out-of-date it will be disposed of. [Reference ICE page 4 and ICE 23]	Confidential waste/shredding
Examiner reports		To be immediately provided to head of department as records owner.	
Finance information	Copy invoices for exams-related fees.	To be returned to Debbie Williams (School Business Manager) at the end of the academic year.	
Invigilation arrangements	See <i>Exam room checklists</i>		

Record type	Record(s) description (where required)	Retention information/period	Action at end of retention period (method of disposal)
JCQ publications	Any hard copy publications provided by JCQ.	To be retained until the current academic year update is provided.	
Moderator reports		To be immediately provided to subject leads as records owner.	
Overnight supervision information	Copy of JCQ form <i>Timetable variation and confidentiality declaration for overnight supervision</i> for any candidate eligible for these arrangements.	To be retained for JCQ inspection purposes.	

Post-results services: confirmation of candidate consent information	Hard copy or email record of candidate consent for an EAR or ATS request to be submitted to an awarding body	EAR consent to be retained for at least six months following the outcome of the enquiry or any subsequent appeal. ATS consent to be retained for at least six months from the date consent given. [Reference PRS 6, appendix A and B]	
Post-results services: requests/outcome information	Any hard copy information relating to a postresults service request (EARs, appeals, ATS) submitted to an awarding body for a candidate and outcome information from the awarding body.		
Post-results services: scripts returned from ATS service	Copy or original exam scripts returned to the centre by the awarding body.	Where scripts are retained by the centre, they must be securely stored (including any electronic versions) and not edited in any way or disposed of until after the awarding body deadline. [Reference PRS 8]	Confidential waste/shredding
Post-results services: tracking logs	A log tracking to resolution all post-results service requests submitted to awarding bodies.		
Proof of postage – candidate work	Proof of postage of sample of candidates' work to awarding body moderators.		
Resolving clashes information	Any hard copy information relating to the resolution of a candidate's clash of exam papers or a timetable variation.		
Record type	Record(s) description (where required)	Retention information/period	Action at end of retention period (method of disposal)
Results information	Broadsheets of results summarising candidate final grades by subject by exam series.	Records for current year plus previous 6 years to be retained as a minimum. [Reference Information Management Toolkit for Schools page 52]	

Seating plans	Plans showing the seating arrangements of all candidates for every exam taken.	To be kept until the deadline for EARs and the resolution of any outstanding enquiries/appeals for the relevant exams series. [Reference ICE 6]	
Special consideration information	Any hard copy information relating to a special consideration request and supporting evidence submitted to an awarding body for a candidate.	Evidence supporting an on-line special consideration application and evidence supporting a candidate's absence from an exam must be kept until after the publication of results. [Reference SC 6]	
Suspected malpractice reports/outcomes	Any hard copy information relating to a suspected malpractice investigation/report submitted to an awarding body and outcome information from the awarding body.		
Transferred candidate information	Any hard copy information relating to an application for a transferred candidate arrangement submitted to an awarding body for a candidate.	To be retained until the transfer arrangements are confirmed by the awarding body.	
Very late arrival reports/outcomes	Any hard copy information relating to a very late arrival report submitted to an awarding body for a candidate and outcome information from the awarding body.		