



# **EXAMINATIONS CONTINGENCY PLAN POLICY**

<b>Policy Owner</b>	<b>Bridge Short Stay School</b>
<b>Policy Written/Last reviewed on</b>	<b>March 2022</b>
<b>Approved by Management Committee</b>	
<b>Next Review Date</b>	<b>March 2023</b>

## **Purpose of the plan/policy**

This plan examines potential risks and issues that could cause disruption to the management and administration of the exam process at The Bridge Centre. By outlining actions/procedures to be followed in case of disruption it is intended to mitigate the impact these disruptions have on our exam process.

Alongside internal processes, this plan is informed by information contained in the *Joint contingency plan for the examination system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*. Where it is states

*“Implementing the plan will safeguard the interests of candidates while maintaining the integrity of the examination system and safeguarding qualification standards.*

*The contingencies applied will be selected based on the context of the disruption and have been implemented on several occasions in response to localised issues. They would be applied on a larger scale in response to any widespread disruption at a national level.*

*The priority when implementing contingencies will be to maintain three principles:*

- *delivering assessments to published timetables*
- *delivering results to published timetables*
- *complying with regulatory requirements in relation to assessment, marking and standards.*

*If the usual contingencies are no longer sufficient to maintain these outcomes, an identified Crisis Management Team consisting of representatives of all organisations involved will be convened by JCQ to agree the additional actions required.”*

## **Causes of potential disruption to the exam process**

### **1. Exam officer extended absence at key points in the exam process (cycle)**

*Criteria for implementation of the plan*

Key tasks required in the management and administration of the exam cycle not undertaken including:

#### Planning

- annual data collection exercise not undertaken to collate information on qualifications and awarding body specifications being delivered
- annual exams plan not produced identifying essential key tasks, key dates and deadlines
- sufficient invigilators not recruited and trained

#### Entries

- awarding bodies not being informed of early/estimated entries which prompts release of early information required by teaching staff
- candidates not being entered with awarding bodies for external exams/assessment
- awarding body entry deadlines missed or late or other penalty fees being incurred

#### Pre-exams

- exam timetabling, rooming allocation; and invigilation schedules not prepared
- candidates not briefed on exam timetables and awarding body information for candidates
- exam/assessment materials and candidates' work not stored under required secure conditions
- internal assessment marks and samples of candidates' work not submitted to awarding bodies/external moderators

#### Exam time

- exams/assessments not taken under the conditions prescribed by awarding bodies
- required reports/requests not submitted to awarding bodies during exam/assessment periods e.g. very late arrival, suspected malpractice, special consideration
- candidates' scripts not dispatched as required to awarding bodies

#### Results and post-results

- access to examination results affecting the distribution of results to candidates

Centre actions:

- Senior Management Team to liaise with Key staff over entries.
- Senior Management Team to liaise with Office Manager pre-exam administration.
- Senior Management to liaise with Office Manager regarding exam time issues and results.

## **2. SENCo extended absence at key points in the exam process (cycle)**

*Criteria for implementation of the plan.*

Key tasks required in the management and administration of the access arrangements process within the exam cycle not undertaken including:

Planning

- candidates not tested/assessed to identify potential access arrangement requirements
- evidence of need and evidence to support normal way of working not collated

Pre-exams

- approval for access arrangements not applied for to the awarding body
- modified paper requirements not identified in a timely manner to enable ordering to meet external deadline
- staff providing support to access arrangement candidates not allocated and trained

Exam time

- access arrangement candidate support not arranged for exam rooms

Centre actions:

- SENCo deputy to liaise with Exams Officer over SENCo absence.

## **3. Teaching staff extended absence at key points in the exam process (cycle)**

*Criteria for implementation of the plan.*

Key tasks not undertaken including:

- Early/estimated entry information not provided to the exams officer on time; resulting in pre-release information not being received
- Final entry information not provided to the exams officer on time; resulting in:
- candidates not being entered for exams/assessments or being entered late
- late or other penalty fees being charged by awarding bodies
- Internal assessment marks and candidates' work not provided to meet submission deadlines

Centre actions:

- Senior Management Team and Exams Officer to liaise with remaining teaching staff.

## **4. Invigilators - lack of appropriately trained invigilators or invigilator absence.**

*Criteria for implementation of the plan*

- Failure to recruit and train sufficient invigilators to conduct exams
- Invigilator shortage on peak exam days
- Invigilator absence on the day of an exam.

Centre actions:

- Recruitment and training is done well in advance.
- Exams Officer and Senior Invigilator to cover absences or shortages, although The Bridge Centre's policy is not to work to the minimum ratio requirements.

**5. Exam rooms - lack of appropriate rooms or main venues unavailable at short notice.**

*Criteria for implementation of the plan*

- Exams officer unable to identify sufficient/appropriate rooms during exams timetable planning
- Insufficient rooms available on peak exam days

Centre actions:

- In an emergency the Hall could be utilised for examination purposes or the Food Tech Area.

**6. Failure of IT systems** *Criteria for implementation of the plan*

- MIS system failure at final entry deadline
- MIS system failure during exams preparation
- MIS system failure at results release time

Centre actions:

- Exams Officer and IT Manager to liaise with Examination Boards as to appropriate action.

**6. \*Disruption of teaching time – centre closed for an extended period.**

*Criteria for implementation of the plan*

- Centre closed or candidates are unable to attend for an extended period during normal teaching or study supported time, interrupting the provision of normal teaching and learning.

Centre actions:

- Senior Management Team & Management Committee to take the necessary action.

**7. \*Centre unable to open as normal during the exams period**

*Criteria for implementation of the plan*

- Centre unable to open as normal for scheduled examinations.

*\*In the event that the head of centre decides the centre cannot be opened for scheduled examinations, the relevant awarding body must be informed as soon as possible. Awarding bodies will be able to offer advice regarding the alternative arrangements for conducting examinations that may be available and the options for candidates who have not been able to take scheduled examinations.*

Centre actions:

- Exams Officer to liaise with Head Teacher and to inform awarding bodies
- Head Teacher and Exams Officer to explore alternative local venues.

**8. \*Candidates unable to take examinations because of a crisis – centre remains open**

*Criteria for implementation of the plan*

- Candidates are unable to attend the examination centre to take examinations as normal

Centre actions:

- Consideration would be given on an individual basis as to why they were unable to attend the examination centre. Special consideration may be applied for.

**9. \*Disruption to the transportation of completed examination scripts**

*Criteria for implementation of the plan*

- Delay in normal collection arrangements for completed examination scripts

Centre actions:

- Scripts remain securely stored in exams office or Exams Officer transports them to the Post Office by collection by Parcelforce.

**10. \*Assessment evidence is not available to be marked**

*Criteria for implementation of the plan*

- Large scale damage to or destruction of completed examination scripts/assessment evidence before it can be marked

Centre actions:

- Exams Officer to contact awarding bodies for advice.

**11. \*Centre unable to distribute results as normal**

*Criteria for implementation of the plan*

- Centre is unable to access or manage the distribution of results to candidates, or to facilitate post-results services

Centre actions:

- Exams Office to contact awarding bodies for advice.

\*information taken from the JCQ *Joint Contingency plan for the examination system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland April 2019*

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/4-5-1-Joint-Contingency-Plan-April-2019.pdf>