



Escalation Process 2026-27

Unity Academy Blackpool

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Centre name	Unity Academy Blackpool
Centre number	46427
Date process first created	18/10/2023
Current process approved by	Chris Drew
Current process reviewed by	Gareth Wright
Date of review	08/09/2026
Date of next review	19/11/2027

Key staff involved in the process

Role	Name
Head of centre	Chris Drew
Senior leader(s)	Rebecca Lemar
Exams officer	Gareth Wright

This process is reviewed and updated annually to ensure compliance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in the process to **GR** relates to relevant sections of the current JCQ document **General Regulations for Approved Centres**.

Introduction

In terms of internal governance arrangements, it is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that Unity Academy Blackpool has in place a written escalation process should the head of centre, or a member of the senior leadership team with oversight of examination administration, be absent (GR 5.3).

This process also supports Unity Academy Blackpool in confirming both internal and trust-level (MAT) external governance arrangements to awarding bodies, ensuring confidence in the integrity of centre activities, qualification delivery, and examination administration (GR 5.3).

Purpose of the process

The purpose of the process is to confirm where responsibility will be escalated to ensure continued compliance with JCQ regulations.

Before examinations/assessments

Planning

Responsibility for ensuring compliance will be escalated to Rebecca Lemar. In the event of concurrent absence or a critical issue involving the Head of Centre, responsibility escalates directly to the MAT Education Director / Executive Leadership.

Main areas of compliance relate to:

The agreement between the centre and awarding bodies (GR 3)

- Third party agreements
- Centre status
- Confidentiality
- Resilience and contingency arrangements
- Cyber security
- Retention of candidates' work
- Communication

The responsibility of the centre (GR 5): Centre management

- Recruitment, selection, training and support
- External and internal governance arrangements
- Delivery of qualifications
- Public liability
- Conflicts of interest
- Controlled assessments, coursework and non-examination assessments
- Security of assessment materials
- National Centre Number Register and other information requirements
- Centre inspections
- Policies available for inspection

Personal data, freedom of information and copyright (GR 6)

Reference information:

To support understanding of the regulations and requirements, the following JCQ publications will be referenced:

- General Regulations for Approved Centres
- Instructions for conducting examinations
- Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments
- Instructions for conducting coursework
- Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments
- Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures
- A guide to the special consideration process

Additional JCQ publications for reference:

- JCQ Centre Inspection Service Changes

Entries and Pre-exams

Responsibility for ensuring compliance will be escalated to Rebecca Lemar. In the event of concurrent absence or a critical issue involving the Head of Centre, responsibility escalates directly to the MAT Education Director / Executive Leadership.

Main areas of compliance relate to:

The responsibility of the centre (GR 5)

- Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments
- Entries (including ensuring appropriate controls are in place which allow accurate entries to be submitted to the awarding bodies)
- Centre assessed work (including that candidates' work is backed-up and considering the contingency of candidates' work being back-up in the event of IT system corruption and cyber-attacks; ensuring appropriate controls are in place which allow accurate internally assessed marks to be submitted to the awarding bodies)
- Candidate information

Reference information:

To support understanding of the regulations and requirements, sections of relevant JCQ publications will be specifically referenced including:

- General Regulations for Approved Centres (5)
- Instructions for conducting examinations (1-15)
- Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (6-8)

Additional JCQ publications for reference:

- Key dates
- Guidance Notes for Transferred Candidates
- Alternative Site guidance notes
- Guidance notes for overnight supervision of candidates with a timetable variation
- Guidance Notes – Centre Consortium Arrangements
- Information for candidates documents
- Exam Room Posters

During examinations/assessments

Exam time

Responsibility for ensuring compliance will be escalated to Simon Brennand

The centre also has in place a member of the senior leadership team who will provide support and guidance to

the examinations officer and ensure that the integrity and security of examinations and assessments is maintained throughout an examination series.

Main areas of compliance relate to:

The agreement between the centre and the awarding bodies (GR 3)

- Retention of candidates' work

The responsibility of the centre (GR 5)

- Conducting examinations and assessments
- Malpractice

Reference information:

To support understanding of the regulations and requirements, sections of relevant JCQ publications will be specifically referenced including:

- General Regulations for Approved Centres (3, 5)
- Instructions for conducting examinations (16-31)
- Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (8)
- A guide to the special consideration process (2-7)

Additional JCQ publications for reference:

- Guidance Notes – Very Late Arrival

After examinations/assessments

Results and Post-Results

As a contingency, the centre has at least one senior member of staff (senior designated contact) who is available to manage emergency requests from awarding bodies that are results related during the summer holidays. The National Centre Number Register is provided with the senior designated contact details (this might include a personal mobile number and/or email address). These are the contact details of someone who can be reached in an emergency if the centre is closed over the summer and who can mobilise resources to respond to the issue. (GR 3.18, 5.3)

Responsibility for ensuring compliance will be escalated to Rebecca Lemar. In the event of concurrent absence or a critical issue involving the Head of Centre, responsibility escalates directly to the MAT Education Director / Executive Leadership.

Main areas of compliance relate to:

The responsibility of the centre (GR 5)

- Results
- Post-results services and appeals
- Certificates

Reference information:

To support understanding of the regulations and requirements, sections of relevant JCQ publications will be specifically referenced including:

- General Regulations for Approved Centres (5)

Additional JCQ publications for reference:

- JCQ Release of results notice
- JCQ Post-Results Services (Information and guidance to centres)
- JCQ Appeals Booklet (A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes)

Changes 2026/2027

(Changed): Updated named postholders to reflect current leadership, incorporating the new Head of Centre Chris Drew and the new Exams Officer to Gareth Wright.

(Changed): Updated Senior Leadership Team (SLT) oversight responsibility across all operational stages, replacing Simon Brennand with Rebecca Lemar.

(Added - MAT Governance): Clarified external escalation pathways to confirm that unresolved structural risks or concurrent senior leadership absences escalate directly to the MAT Education Director / Executive Leadership.

Centre-specific changes

Upon review in 2026, no centre-specific updates or changes were applicable to this document.