



Conflicts of Interest Policy (Exams) 2024-25

Unity Academy Blackpool

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Centre name	Unity Academy Blackpool
Centre number	46427
Date policy first created	04/12/2024
Current policy approved by	Stephen Cooke
Current policy reviewed by	Ellie Baron
Date of review	04/12/2024
Date of next review	04/12/2025

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Stephen Cooke
Senior leader(s)	Rebecca Lemar
Exams officer	Ellie Baron

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that conflicts of interest at Unity Academy Blackpool are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

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

Introduction

It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that Unity Academy Blackpool has a written conflicts of interest policy for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually. This policy confirms that Unity Academy Blackpool:

Manages conflicts of interest **by informing the awarding bodies**, before the published deadline for entries for each examination series, of:

- any members of centre staff who are taking qualifications at their own centre which include internally assessed components/units
- any members of centre staff who are teaching and preparing members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) for qualifications which include internally assessed components/units, **and maintains internal records** of all instances where:
 - exams office staff have members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) being entered for examinations and assessments either at the centre itself or other centres
 - centre staff are taking qualifications at their own centre which **do not** include internally assessed components/units
 - centre staff are taking qualifications at other centres (GR 5.3)

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm how Unity Academy Blackpool manages conflicts of interest under normal delivery arrangements in accordance with the regulations.

General principles

A process is in place to collect any declaration of interest from all centre staff in order to identify and manage any potential conflicts of interest

Declaration process

An electronic copy of a declaration of interest form is sent to all centre staff in the autumn term. Completed forms must be returned to the exams officer by the end of the autumn term.

Managing conflicts of interest

- For internal recording purposes, a conflict of interest log is maintained and any potential conflict declared by centre staff is centrally recorded on the log
- The relevant awarding body/bodies is/are informed (where required by the nature of the conflict) of specific conflicts of interest/centre staff declarations before the published deadline for entries for each examination series by identifying and following the individual awarding body's administrative process
- The agreed measures/protocols taken/put in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected are recorded on the log and the affected member of staff informed of these measures/protocols.

Roles and responsibilities

The role of the head of centre is to ensure:

- conflicts of interest are managed according to the requirements in GR 5.3
- internal records are maintained and that the records include details of the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected
- the records are available where they may be requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and/or awarding body staff
- the records are retained until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
- that entering members of centre staff for qualifications at this centre is as a last resort in cases where the member of centre staff is unable to find another centre
- that proper protocols are in place to prevent the member of centre staff having access to examination materials prior to the examination and that other centre staff are briefed on maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the examination materials
- that during the examination series the member of centre staff is treated in the same way as any other candidate entered for that examination, does not have access to examination materials and does not receive any preferential treatment

The role of the exams office/officer

- To ensure the process for collecting declarations of interest is undertaken.
- To identify and follow the awarding body's administrative process for submitting details of members of staff who are:
 - taking qualifications which include internally assessed components/units at their own centre
 - teaching and preparing members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) for qualifications which include internally assessed components/units
- To retain the records of the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later.

Changes 2024/2025

Under heading **Introduction** reference to 'clear records' changed to **internal records** to reflect the change in GR 5.3).

Formatting changes made to the **Roles and Responsibilities** section.

Centre-specific changes

Upon review in December 2024, no centre-specific updates or changes were applicable to this document.