



400 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Complaints & Appeals Procedures (Exams)

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Policy Lead	David Sykes Liz Bradbury
Governor or SLT approval	SLT
Governor committee responsible for policy	N/A

This procedure is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that the complaints and appeals in relation to examinations at Richard Hale School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations. TEO Guidance October 2025.

Reference in this procedure to GR refers to the JCQ publication **General Regulations for Approved Centres**.

Introduction

Purpose of the procedure

The purpose of this procedure is to confirm the arrangements for complaints and appeals in relation to examinations at Richard Hale School and confirms compliance with JCQ's **General Regulations for Approved Centres** (section 5.3, 5.8) in drawing to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers our written complaints and appeals procedure which covers general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification.

Grounds for complaint

A candidate (or his/her/parent/carer) at Richard Hale School may make a complaint on the grounds below. (This is not an exhaustive list).

Teaching and Learning

- Quality of teaching and learning, for example
 - Non-subject specialist teacher without adequate training/subject matter expertise utilised on a long-term basis
 - Teacher lacking knowledge of new specification/incorrect core content studied/taught
 - Core content not adequately covered
 - Inadequate feedback for a candidate following assessment(s)
- Pre-release/advance material/set task issued by the awarding body not provided on time to an examination candidate
- The taking of an assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not conducted according to the JCQ/awarding body instructions
- Candidate not informed of their centre assessed mark prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not informed of their centre assessed mark in sufficient time to request/appeal a review of marking prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not given sufficient time to review materials to make a decision whether to request a review of the centre assessed mark.
- Candidate unhappy with internal assessment decision (complainant to refer to the centre's Internal Appeals Procedure)

Access arrangements

- Candidate not assessed by the centre's appointed assessor
- Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding their access arrangements
- Candidate was not informed that an application for access arrangements was to be processed using *Access arrangements online*, complying with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018
- Candidate was not informed/adequately informed of the arrangement(s) in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangement(s) would not apply
- Examination information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it
- Adapted equipment put in place failed during examination/assessment
- Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an examination/assessment

- Appropriate arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an examination/assessment as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment.
- Candidate unhappy with internal assessment decision (complainant to refer to the centre's internal appeals procedure)
- Centre fails to adhere to its **Internal Appeals Procedure**

Entries

- Failure to clearly explain a decision of early entry for a qualification to candidate (or parent/carer)
- Candidate not entered/entered late (incurring a late entry fee) for a required examination/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong examination/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong tier of entry.

Conducting examinations

- Failure to adequately brief candidate on examination timetable/regulations prior to examination/assessment taking place
- Room in which assessment held did not provide candidate with appropriate conditions for taking the examination
- Inadequate invigilation in examination room
- Failure to conduct the examination according to the regulations
- Online system failed during (on-screen) examination/assessment
- Disruption during the examination/assessment
- Alleged, suspected or actual malpractice incident not investigated/reported
- Failure to inform/update candidate on the accepted/rejected outcome of a special consideration application if provided by the awarding body.

Results and Post-Results

- Before examinations, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the availability of senior members of centre staff after the publication of results
- Candidate not having access to a member of senior staff after the publication of results to discuss/make a decision on the submission of a results review/enquiry
- Candidate request for return of work after moderation and work not available/disposed of earlier than allowed in the regulations
- Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a result (complainant to refer via exams officer to awarding body **post-results services**)
- Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal (complainant to refer to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its **internal appeals procedure**
- Centre applied for the wrong post-results service/for the wrong script for a candidate
- Centre missed awarding body deadline to apply for a post-results service
- Centre applied for a post-results service for a candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission.

Raising a concern/complaint

If a candidate (or parent/carer) has a general concern or complaint about the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification, Richard Hale School encourages an informal resolution in the first instance. This can be undertaken by raising the concern either in person, by telephone or email to the designated member of SLT. They should refer to the Complaints Procedure on the school web site.

If a concern or complaint fails to be resolved informally, the candidate (or parent/carer) is then at liberty to make a formal complaint.

How to make a formal complaint

All documentation relating to the submission of a formal complaint is available from the School Complaints Policy available on the website and should be returned to the Head of Centre or the Examinations Officer.

Formal complaints will be logged and acknowledged within 5 working days.

To make a formal complaint, candidates (or parents/carers) must inform the Examinations Officer within 5 working days and refer to the Complaints Policy.

The findings and conclusion of any investigation will be provided to the complainant within a further 7 working days.

Internal Appeals Procedure

Following the outcome, if the complainant remains dissatisfied and believes there are clear grounds, an appeal can be submitted.

To submit an appeal, candidates (or parents/carers) must

- complete another complaints and appeals form.

Appeals will be logged and acknowledged within 5 working days.

The appeal will be referred to

- Chair of Governors' Committee with appeals responsibility.

It will be the responsibility of

- The Chair of Governors will inform the relevant party of the outcome to inform the appellant of the final conclusion in accordance with the internal appeals procedure.