



400 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Food and Drink Policy (Exams)

Policy approval date	February 2026
Policy review date	February 2027
Policy Lead/ Other Personnel Involved	David Sykes Liz Bradbury
Governor or SLT approval	SLT
Governor committee responsible for policy	N/A

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that food and drink in the examination room at Richard Hale School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to ICE refer to the JCQ publication **Instructions for conducting examinations**.

Purpose of the policy

This policy confirms that Richard Hale School reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow food and drink in the examination room, and confirms:

- the correct procedures are followed regarding food and drink in the examination room
- appropriate arrangements are in place for the management of food and drink in the examination room

1. Food and drink in the examination room

- Food and drink is NOT allowed in the examination room at the discretion of the Head of Centre (ICE 18.4)
- Any food and drink brought into the examination room whether by the candidate or the centre must be free from packaging and all labels are removed from drink containers (ICE 18.4).
- To enable invigilators to check these items quickly and efficiently:
 - food brought into the examination room by the candidate must be free of packaging and in a transparent container;
 - drink bottles must be transparent with all labels removed which would include transparent, reusable plastic bottles. (ICE 18.4)

The following arrangements are applied at Richard Hale School:

- Food and drink is allowed in the examination room only where food is free from packaging and all labels are removed from drink containers and where a candidate has a medical need

Additional centre-specific arrangements:

- Water is to be in clear bottles/containers free from logos and any writing

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the exams office/officer

- Through briefings, ensure candidates are aware of the regulations, and centre-specific arrangements, relating to food and drink in the examination room
- Ensure invigilators are trained and aware of the regulations/centre-specific arrangements relating to food and drink in the examination room
- Escalate any issue or breach of centre-specific arrangements to the relevant senior leader for the application of internal sanction(s)
- Escalate any breach of JCQ regulations immediately to the head of centre (a breach of the regulations constitutes suspected or actual malpractice)

The role of the invigilator

- Be vigilant in the examination room and remain aware of incidents or emerging situations, looking out for malpractice (ICE 20.2)
- Record what has happened and actions taken on the exam room incident log in relation to any breach of regulations/centre-specific arrangements regarding food and drink in the examination room

The role of the Head of Centre

- Report to the awarding body immediately all cases of suspected or actual malpractice in connection with the examination (ICE 24.3)