

Trust Policy

# Complaints Policy (Exams)

Approver: Trustees

Review Cycle: Annual



### Revision History

Date	Version	Short Description of Changes	Approved by:
Oct 2024	V1.0	Delta Academies Trust template adapted and adopted	Trustees
Dec 2024			Mrs. Dowds, Principal

### This Policy Applies To:

Secondary Schools

## Document Management Information

Applicable to:	All secondary schools
Development and Consultation:	Delta Academies Trust policy has been adapted. This should then be updated with school specific details by each of the schools.
Dissemination:	Staff will be notified of the policy by the Staff News, the template will be on the staff hub. Once each school has updated the policy it should be saved into school's local folder on the staff hub.
Implementation:	To be used where there is a complaint specifically about the Exams Process.
Training:	The Exams Office provides training to Exam Officers.
Review Frequency:	Annual
Based on:	Delta Academies Trust Policy 2024/2025
Policy Author:	Adapted by Trust Compliance Officer
Executive Policy Owner:	CEO
Approval by:	Trust Board
Version	V1.0
Approval Date:	22 October 2024
Next Review Due:	September 2025

If you require this policy in a more accessible format please contact the Trust Compliance Officer on [compliance@coastandvale.academy](mailto:compliance@coastandvale.academy)

Executive summary text for current policy version:

Once approved schools should personalise this policy to reflect their own circumstances.

This policy is part of a suite of Exam Specific Policies:

POLY055 – Exams Policy


POLY098 – Complaints Policy (Exams)

POLY099 – Internal Appeals Policy (Exams)

POLY100 – Non-Examination Assessment Policy (Exams)

Together these policies outline what arrangements each specific school has in place around exams.

Once this policy is adapted schools should complete the following box:

Approved/reviewed at school by	
	
Date of review	December 2024

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## Key staff involved in the policy

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name(s)</b>
Head of centre	<b>Mrs Helen Dowds</b>
Exams officer line manager (Senior leader)	<b>Mr John Connell, Vice Principal</b>
Exams officer	<b>Mrs Julianne Haigh</b>
ALS lead/SENCo	<b>Mrs Hayley Briggs</b>

## Purpose of the policy

This procedure confirms the school's compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres (section 5.8) that the centre will draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers their written complaints procedure which will cover general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification.

## Grounds for complaint

A candidate (or their/parent/carer) 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 exam candidate
- The taking of an assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not conducted according to the JCQ/awarding body instructions
- The marking of an internal assessment (centre assessed work), which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not undertaken according to the requirements of the awarding body
- Candidate not informed of their centre assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not informed of their centre assessed marks 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 centre assessed marks

- Candidate unhappy with internal assessment decision (complainant to refer via Head of Department)
- Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure

### **Access arrangements and special consideration**

- Candidate not assessed by the centre’s appointed assessor
- Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding their access arrangements
- Candidate did not consent to record their personal data online (by the non-acquisition of a completed candidate personal data consent form)
- Candidate not informed/adequately informed of the arrangements in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangements would not apply
- Exam information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it
- Adapted equipment/assistive technology put in place failed during exam/assessment
- Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment
- Appropriate arrangements not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment
- 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 exam/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong exam/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong tier of entry

### **Conducting examinations**

- Failure to adequately brief candidate on exam timetable/exam regulations prior to exam/assessment taking place
- Room in which exam held did not provide candidate with appropriate conditions for taking the exam

- Inadequate invigilation in exam room
- Failure to conduct exam according to the regulations
- Online system failed during (on-screen) exam/assessment
- Disruption during exam/assessment
- Alleged, suspected or actual malpractice incident not investigated/reported
- Eligible application for special consideration for a candidate not submitted/not submitted to timescale
- Failure to inform/update candidate on the accepted/rejected outcome of a special consideration application if provided by awarding body

### **Results and Post-results**

- Before exams, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the accessibility 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 decision on the submission of a 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 via Exams Officer 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 candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission

## Complaints and Appeals Procedure

If a candidate (or their parent/carer) has a general concern or complaint about the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification they are following, the school encourages them to try to resolve this informally in the first instance. A concern or complaint should be made in person or via e-mail to the Head of Department and/or the Headteacher.

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

### How to make a formal complaint

- In writing using the complaints and appeals form
- Forms are available from the school website
- Completed forms should be returned to the Exams Officer
- Forms received will be logged by the centre and acknowledged within 5 school days

### How a formal complaint is investigated

- The head of centre will further investigate or appoint a member of the senior leadership team (who is not involved in the grounds for complaint and has no personal interest in the outcome) to investigate the complaint and report on the findings and conclusion
- The findings and conclusion will be provided to the complainant within 2 school weeks

### Appeals

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

- In writing using the complaints and appeals form
- Forms received will be logged by the centre and acknowledged within 5 school days
- The appeal will be referred to the Chair of Governors
- The Chair of Governors will inform the appellant of the final conclusion in due course



## Complaints form - Exams

FOR CENTRE USE ONLY	
Date received	
Reference No.	

Please tick box to indicate the nature of your complaint:

- Complaint/appeal against the centre's delivery of a qualification
- Complaint/appeal against the centre's administration of a qualification

Name of complainant/appellant	
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Candidate name (if different to complainant/appellant)	
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Please state the grounds for your complaint/appeal below:

If your grounds are lengthy, please write as bullet points; please keep to the point and include relevant detail such as dates, names etc. and provide any evidence you may have to support what you say.

Your appeal should identify the centre’s failure to follow procedures as set out in the relevant policy, and/or issues in teaching and learning which have impacted the candidate.

If necessary, continue on an additional page if this form is being completed electronically or overleaf if hard copy being completed.

Detail any steps you have already taken to resolve the issue(s) and what you would consider to be a good resolution to the issue(s)

Complainant/appellant signature:	Date of signature:
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This form must be completed in full - an incomplete form will be returned to the complainant/appellant.

# Complaints log

On receipt, all complaints are assigned a reference number and logged. Outcome and outcome date is also recorded.

Ref No.	Date received	Complaint	Outcome	Outcome date