



**ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

AN ACADEMY TRUST

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# Equalities Policy (Exams)

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	<b>Position/Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Prepared by</b>	<b>Exams Manager</b>	<b>Oct 2024</b>
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## Purpose of the policy

This document is provided as an exams-specific supplement to the *centre-wide equalities and/or disability/ accessibility policy/plan* which details how the centre will:

*“Recognise its duties towards disabled candidates, including private candidates, ensuring compliance with all aspects of the Equality Act 2010<sup>†</sup>, particularly Section 20 (7). This must include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, through the access arrangements process submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates. Where the centre is under a duty to make a reasonable adjustment, the centre must not charge a disabled candidate any additional fee in relation to the adjustment or aid;†or any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect”*

[Quote taken directly from section 5.4 of the current JCQ publication *General regulations for approved centres*, section 5.4)

This publication is further referred to in this policy as GR.

This policy details how the centre facilitates access to exams and assessments for disabled candidates, as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, by outlining staff roles and responsibilities in relation to

- ▶ identifying the need for appropriate arrangements, reasonable adjustments and/or adaptations (referred to in this policy as ‘access arrangements’)
- ▶ requesting access arrangements
- ▶ implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams
- ▶ good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010

## The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability

A definition is provided in the current JCQ publication *Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties* *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2024-2025*

This publication is further referred to in this policy as AA.

## Identifying the need for access arrangements

### Roles and responsibilities

#### Head of centre

- ▶ Is familiar with the entire contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publications including GR and AA

#### Senior leaders

- ▶ Are familiar with the entire contents of the annually updated JCQ publications including GR and AA

#### SENCo or equivalent role

- ▶ Has full knowledge and understanding of the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication AA

#### Teaching staff

- ▶ Where appropriate inform the SENCo of any observations about a candidate or any support that might be needed by a candidate.

**Support staff** (for example, Learning Support Assistants, Teaching Assistants and Communication Support Workers)

- ▶ Provide comments/observations to support the SENCo to *paint a holistic picture of need* confirming *normal way of working* for a candidate

### **Assessor of candidates with learning difficulties**

(An assessor of candidates with learning difficulties will be an appropriately qualified access arrangements assessor/psychologist/specialist teacher assessor)

- ▶ Has detailed understanding of the current JCQ publication AA

### **Use of word processors**

- Students are able to use a word processor where there are reports from teaching staff from a number of different subjects concerning the legibility of the student's handwriting. A sample of their work is then taken from across the curriculum and then a decision is made as to whether they should use a word processor in their exams. This is then communicated to all staff and the students use this as their normal way of working.

### **Requesting access arrangements**

#### **Roles and responsibilities**

##### **ASL Lead/ Special educational needs coordinator (SENCo)**

- ▶ Determines if the arrangements identified for a candidate require prior approval from the awarding body before the arrangements are put in place or if approval is centre-delegated

##### **Exams officer**

- ▶ Is familiar with the entire contents of the annually updated JCQ publication GR and is aware of information contained in AA where this may be relevant to the EO role

### **Implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams**

#### **Roles and responsibilities**

##### **External assessments**

These are assessments which are normally set and marked/examined by an awarding body which must be conducted according to awarding body instructions and/or the JCQ publication *Instructions for conducting examinations* (ICE).

##### **Head of centre**

- ▶ Supports the SENCo, the exams officer and other relevant centre staff in ensuring appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams

##### **ASL Lead/ Special educational needs coordinator (SENCo)**

- ▶ Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for candidates where they are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act (unless a temporary emergency arrangement is required at the time of an exam)

##### **Exams officer**

- ▶ Understands and follows instructions for *Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements* and *Access arrangements* in [ICE 2024-25](#)

#### **Other relevant centre staff**

- ▶ Support the SENCo and the exams officer to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams

#### **Internal assessments**

These are non-examination assessments (NEA) which are normally set by a centre/awarding body, marked and internally moderated/ standardised by the centre and externally moderated by the awarding body.

However, 'NEA' is not limited to internal assessment as externally marked and/or externally set practical examinations taken at different times across centres are also classified as 'NEA'.

#### **ASL Lead/ Special educational needs coordinator (SENCo)**

- ▶ Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates

#### **Teaching staff**

- ▶ Support the SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates

#### **Internal exams/ assessments**

These are exams or tests which are set and marked within the centre; normally a pre-cursor to external assessments.

#### **Special educational needs coordinator (SENCo)**

- ▶ Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates

#### **Teaching staff**

- ▶ Support the SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates

#### **Facilitating access - examples**

The following information confirms the centre's good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010 and the conduct of examinations.

On a candidate by candidate basis, consideration is given to :

- ▶ adapting assessment arrangements
- ▶ adapting assessment materials
- ▶ the provision of specialist equipment or adaptation of standard equipment
- ▶ adaptation of the physical environment for access purposes

The table provides example arrangements, adjustments and adaptations that are considered to meet the need(s) of a candidate and the actions considered/taken by the centre for the purposes of facilitating access.

<b>Example of candidate need(s)</b>	<b>Arrangements explored</b>	<b>Centre actions</b>
A medical condition which prevents the candidate from taking exams in the centre	Alternative site for the conduct of examinations  Supervised rest breaks	<i>SENCo gathers evidence to support the need for the candidate to take exams at home and for SRB</i>  <i>Pastoral head provides written statement for file to confirm the need</i>  <i>Approval confirmed by SENCo; AAO approval for both arrangements not required</i>  <i>Pastoral head discussion with candidate to confirm the arrangements should be put in place</i>

		<p><i>EO submits appropriate 'Alternative site form' for timetabled written exams to awarding body/bodies online using CAP</i></p> <p><i>EO provides candidate with exam timetable and JCQ information for candidates</i></p> <p><i>Pastoral head confirms with candidate the information is understood</i></p> <p><i>Pastoral head agrees with candidate that prior to each exam will call to confirm fitness to take exam</i></p> <p><i>EO allocates invigilator(s) to candidate's timetable; confirms time of collection of exam papers and materials</i></p> <p><i>Invigilator monitors candidate's condition for each exam and records any issues on incident log</i></p> <p><i>Invigilator records supervised rest breaks (time and duration) on incident log and confirms set time given for exam</i></p> <p><i>Invigilator briefs EO after each exam on how candidate's performance in exam may have been affected by his/her condition</i></p> <p><i>EO discusses with pastoral head if candidate is eligible for special consideration (candidate present but disadvantaged)</i></p> <p><i>EO processes request(s) for special consideration where applicable; incident log(s) provides supporting evidence, supported by appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team (Evidence retained until after the publication of results)</i></p> <p><i>Pastoral head informs candidate that special consideration has been requested</i></p>
<p>Persistent and significant difficulties in accessing written text</p>	<p>Reader/computer reader</p> <p>25% Extra time</p> <p>Alternative rooming arrangements</p>	<p><i>Confirms candidate is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010</i></p> <p><i>Papers checked for those testing reading</i></p> <p><i>Computer reader/examination reading pen sourced for use in papers (or sections of papers) testing reading OR up to 50% extra time awarded</i></p> <p><i>AAO application for approval processed</i></p> <p><i>Supporting evidence, AAO approval, signed candidate personal data consent form and completed Data protection confirmation by the examinations officer or SENCo form kept on file</i></p>
<p>Significant difficulty in concentrating</p>	<p>Prompter</p> <p>Alternative rooming arrangements</p> <p>Separate invigilation within the centre</p>	<p><i>Gathers evidence to support substantial and long term adverse impairment</i></p> <p><i>AAO application for approval processed.</i></p> <p><i>Supporting evidence, AAO approval, signed candidate personal data consent form and completed Data protection confirmation by the examinations officer or SENCO form kept on file.</i></p> <p><i>Confirms with candidate how and when they will be prompted</i></p> <p><i>Briefs invigilator to monitor candidate and the method of prompting (call out his name to bring his attention back to the paper - confirms requirement for alternative room)</i></p>

<p>A wheelchair user</p>	<p>Desk Rooms Facilities Seating arrangements Practical assistant</p>	<p><i>Applies for practical assistant to help candidate set up wheelchair and other equipment in a practical assessment; approval automatically fails so awarding body referral lists the tasks that will be performed</i></p> <p><i>Supporting evidence, AAO approval, signed candidate personal data consent form and completed Data protection confirmation by the examinations officer or SENCO form kept on file.</i></p> <p><i>Provides height adjustable desk in exam room</i></p> <p><i>Allocates exam room on ground floor near adapted bathroom facilities</i></p> <p><i>Spaces desks to allow wheelchair access</i></p> <p><i>Seats candidate near exam room door</i></p> <p><i>Confirms arrangements in place to assist the candidate in case of emergency evacuation of the exam room</i></p> <p><i>Practical assistant cover sheet printed from AAO; to be completed by facilitator and inserted inside the candidate's work where this may be applicable to the assessment</i></p>
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