

# **BLUE COAT CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL AND MUSIC COLLEGE**



## **INTERNAL APPEALS POLICY**

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## Appeals against internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)

This procedure confirms Blue Coat's compliance with JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres 2017-2018, section 5.8* that the centre has in place "a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions and to ensure that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates" and that the centre "must inform candidates of their centre assessed marks as a candidate is allowed to request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body."

Certain components of GCSE and GCE (GCSE controlled assessments, GCE coursework, GCE and GCSE non-examination assessments) and other qualifications that contribute to the final grade of the qualification are internally assessed (marked) by the centre. The marks awarded (the internal assessment decisions) are then submitted by the deadline set by the awarding body for external moderation.

Blue Coat is committed to ensuring that whenever its staff mark candidates' work this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the awarding body's specification and subject-specific associated documents.

Blue Coat ensures that all centre staff follow a robust *Non-examination assessment policy* (for the management of GCE and GCSE non-examination assessments). This policy details all procedures relating to non-examination assessments, including the marking and quality assurance processes which relevant teaching staff are required to follow.

Candidates' work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skill, and who have been trained in this activity. Blue Coat is committed to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body. Where a number of subject teachers are involved in marking candidates' work, internal moderation and standardisation will ensure consistency of marking.

On being informed of their centre assessed marks, if a candidate believes that the above procedures were not followed in relation to the marking of his/her work, or that the assessor has not properly applied the mark scheme to his/her marking, then he/she may make use of this appeals procedure to consider whether to request a review of the centre's marking.

1. Blue Coat will ensure that candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks so that they may request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body.
2. Blue Coat will inform candidates that they may request copies of materials to assist them in considering whether to request a review of the centre's marking of the assessment.
3. Blue Coat will, having received a request for copies of materials, promptly make them available to the candidate.
4. Blue Coat will provide candidates with sufficient time in order to allow them to review copies of materials and reach a decision.
5. Blue Coat will provide a clear deadline for candidates to submit a request for a review of the centre's marking. Requests will not be accepted after this deadline. Requests must be made in writing.
6. Blue Coat will allow sufficient time for the review to be carried out, to make any necessary changes to marks and to inform the candidate of the outcome, all before the awarding body's deadline.
- 7.
8. Blue Coat will ensure that the review of marking is carried out by an assessor who has appropriate competence, has had no previous involvement in the assessment of that candidate and has no personal interest in the review.

9. Blue Coat will instruct the reviewer to ensure that the candidate's mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre.
10. Blue Coat will inform the candidate in writing of the outcome of the review of the centre's marking.
11. The outcome of the review of the centre's marking will be made known to the head of centre. A written record of the review will be kept and made available to the awarding body upon request.

The moderation process carried out by the awarding bodies may result in a mark change, either upwards or downwards, even after an internal review. The internal review process is in place to ensure consistency of marking within the centre, whereas moderation by the awarding body ensures that centre marking is in line with national standards. The mark submitted to the awarding body is subject to change and should therefore be considered provisional.

## **Appeals against the centre's decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal**

This procedure confirms Blue Coat's compliance with JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres 2017-2018, section 5.14* that the centre has in place "a written internal appeals procedure to manage disputes when a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal..."

Following the issue of results, the general qualification awarding bodies offer post-results services. Full details of these services, internal deadlines for requesting a service and fees charged will be provided by the Exams Officer.

Candidates are also informed of the arrangements for post-results services **before** they sit any exams and the accessibility of senior members of centre staff immediately after the publication of results.

If the centre or a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) has a concern and believes a result may not be accurate, an enquiry about the result may be requested.

*Enquiries about results* (EARs) offers three services.

- Service 1 – clerical re-check
- Service 2 – review of marking
- Service 3 – review of moderation (this service is not available to an individual candidate)

Written candidate consent (informed consent via candidate email is acceptable) is required in all cases before a request for an EAR service 1 or 2 is submitted to the awarding body as with these services candidates' marks and subject grades may be lowered. Candidate consent can only be collected after the publication of results.

If a concern is raised about a particular examination result, the Exams Officer, teaching staff and head of centre will investigate the feasibility of requesting an enquiry at the centre's expense.

When Blue Coat does not uphold a request from a candidate, the candidate may pay the appropriate fee, and a request will be made to the Awarding Body on the candidate's behalf.

If the candidate (or their parent/carer) believes there are grounds to appeal against the centre's decision not to support an enquiry, an appeal can be submitted to the centre using **the internal appeals form** at least **one week prior to** the internal deadline for submitting an EAR.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of his/her appeal.

Following the EAR outcome, an external appeals process is available if the head of centre remains dissatisfied with the outcome and believes there are grounds for appeal. The JCQ publications *Post-Results Services* and *JCQ Appeals Booklet (A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes)* will be consulted to determine the acceptable grounds for a preliminary appeal.

Where the head of centre is satisfied after receiving the EAR outcome, but the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) believes there are grounds for a preliminary appeal to the awarding body, a further internal appeal may be made to the head of centre. Following this, the head of centre's decision as to whether to proceed with a preliminary appeal will be based upon the acceptable grounds as detailed in the *JCQ Appeals Booklet*. Candidates or parents/carers are not permitted to make direct representations to an awarding body.

The **Internal appeals Form** should be completed and submitted to the centre within **10 calendar days** of the notification of the outcome of the enquiry. Subject to the head of centre's decision, this will allow the centre to process the appeal and submit to the Awarding Body within the required 14 calendar days. Awarding Body fees which may be charged for the appeal must be paid by the appellant on submission on the internal appeals form. If the appeal is upheld by the Awarding Body, this fee will be refunded by the Awarding Body and repaid to the appellant by the centre.

## Internal Appeals Form

This form should be completed in all cases to lodge an appeal.

Please tick to indicate what the appeal is against:

- an internal assessment decision**
- the centre decision not to support an enquiry about results**
- the outcome of an enquiry about results**

<b>Name of appellant</b>		<b>Candidate name if different to appellant</b>	
Awarding Body		Unit/module/exam paper code	
Subject		Unit/module/exam paper title	

Please state the grounds for your appeal below:

*Continue overleaf if necessary*

### Appeal against an internal assessment decision

#### Appellant declaration

By signing here, I am confirming I understand the purpose of the appeal will be to decide whether the process used for the internal assessment conformed to the published requirements of the Awarding Body's specification and subject-specific associated documents. I also understand the appeal may only be made against the marking/assessment process not against the mark submitted by the centre for moderation by the Awarding Body.

**Signature:**

**Date of signature:**

### Appeal against the centre decision not to support an enquiry about results

#### Appellant declaration

By signing here, I am confirming I feel there are grounds to appeal against the centre's decision.

**Signature:**

**Date of signature:**

### Appeal against the outcome of an enquiry about results

#### Appellant declaration

By signing here, I am confirming I understand that the grounds for my appeal must relate to the Awarding Body's procedures or the application of the post-result service procedures. I also understand that appeals do not generally involve further reviews of marking candidates' work. I also confirm that I will pay in advance any fees which may be charged by the Awarding Body for the appeal. I understand this fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

**Signature:**

**Date of signature:**

The appellant declaration against the relevant appeal must be signed, dated and returned to the EO, on behalf of the head of centre, to the timescale indicated in the internal appeals procedure.

## Further guidance to inform and implement appeals procedures

### JCQ

- ▶ General Regulations for Approved Centres  
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/general-regulations>
- ▶ Post-Results Services  
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/post-results-services>
- ▶ JCQ Appeals Booklet  
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/appeals>
- ▶ Notice to Centres - Reviews of marking (centre assessed marks)  
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/controlled-assessments>  
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/coursework>  
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessments>
- ▶ Notice to Centres – informing candidates of their centre assessed marks  
<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessments>

### Ofqual

- ▶ GCSE (9 to 1) qualification-level conditions and requirements  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-qualification-level-conditions>
- ▶ GCSE (A\* to G) qualification-level conditions and requirements  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-a-to-g-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements>
- ▶ GCE qualification-level conditions and requirements  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements>
- ▶ Pre-reform GCE qualification-level conditions and requirements  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-for-pre-reform-qualifications>