



Inspire Education Trust

Together we achieve, individually we grow

Complaints Policy (Exams) 2023-2024 Blue Coat CE Secondary School

Policy Date: September 2023

Review Date: September 2024

Document History

Version	Status	Date	Author	Summary Changes
V1		September 2023	Kelly Jobson	Updated to Reflect JCQ changes 2023-2024

This procedure is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that the complaints at Blue Coat School are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

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

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements for complaints at Blue Coat School and confirms compliance with JCQ's **General Regulations for Approved Centres** (sections 5.3, 5.8) in drawing to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers its 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 Blue Coat 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 decide 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**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure

Additional grounds for complaint relating to Teaching and Learning:

Not Applicable

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 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/assistive technology 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 centre decision relating to access arrangements or special consideration (complainant to refer to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure

Additional grounds for complaint relating to access arrangements:

Not Applicable

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

Additional grounds for complaint relating to examination entries:

Not Applicable

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 awarding body

Additional grounds for complaint relating to the conducting of examinations:

Not Applicable

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

Additional grounds for complaint relating to results and post-results: Not Applicable

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, Blue Coat School encourages an informal resolution in the first instance. This can be undertaken by arising the concern or complaint in person or they should raise the concern by telephone or in writing to the head of centre.
- 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, and should be returned to Lisa Henden Associate Head Teacher. Formal complaints will be logged and acknowledged within 5 working days.
- To make a formal complaint, candidates (or parents/carers) must Complete and return a complaints form.

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 of any investigation will be provided to the complainant within 10 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 follow the centre's internal appeals procedure and complete and return an internal appeal form. Appeals will be logged and acknowledged within 5 working days. The appeal will be referred to as detailed in the centre's internal appeals procedure). It will be the responsibility of Lisa Henden to inform the appellant of the final conclusion in accordance with the internal appeals procedure.

Additional details on the internal appeals process:

Not Applicable

Changes 2023/24

- (Changed) All references to complaints appeals procedure (To) complaints policy
- (Changed) Heading - **Complaints and appeals procedure** (To) **Raising a concern/complaint**
- (Changed) Sub-heading - Appeals (To) Heading - Internal appeals procedure and updated the process.

Centre-Specific Changes

No centre specific changes added to this document.

Responsibility

The Inspire Education Trust Board of Directors have a responsibility for the oversight of this and all policies within the Trust's academies and may delegate the implementation and review of this policy in accordance with our Scheme of Delegation.

Reviewed by: Kelly Jobson September 2023


Next Review Date: September 2024

Approved by Directors: 22 November 2023

Signed:



Lois Whitehouse
CEO



Mark Gore
Chair of Standards