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Conflicts of Interest Policy 2024-2025

Blue Coat CE Secondary School

Policy Date: September 2024

Review Date: September 2025

Document History

Version	Status	Date	Author	Summary Changes
V1		September 2023	Kelly Jobson	Updated to Reflect JCQ changes 2023-2024
V2		September 2024	Kelly Jobson	Updated to Reflect JCQ Changes 2024-2025 changes in yellow

This process is reviewed and updated annually to ensure compliance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in the process to **GR** relates to relevant sections of the current JCQ publication **General Regulations for Approved Centres**.

Introduction

It is the responsibility of the Head of Centre to ensure that Blue Coat School has a written conflicts of interest policy in place available for inspection. This policy confirms that Blue Coat School:

- Manages conflicts of interest by informing the awarding bodies, before the published deadline for entries for each examination series, of:
- Any members of centre staff who are taking qualifications at their own centre which include internally assessed components/units
- Any members of centre staff who are teaching and preparing members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) for qualifications which include **internally** assessed components/units **and** maintains internal records of **all instances**.
- Exams office staff have members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) being entered for examinations and assessments either at the centre itself or other centres
- Centre staff are taking qualifications at their own centre which do not include internally assessed components/units
- Centre staff are taking qualifications at other centres (GR 5.3)

Purpose of the Policy

- The purpose of this policy is to confirm how Blue Coat School manages conflicts of interest under normal delivery arrangements in accordance with the regulations.

General Principles

- A process is in place to collect any declaration of interest from all centre staff to identify and manage any potential conflicts of interest.

Declaration Process

- A Microsoft Conflict of Interest declaration is sent to all centre staff in September by Kelly Jobson. Completed forms must be returned to Kelly Jobson who will collate, complete and maintain the log.

Managing conflicts of interest

A conflicts of interest log is maintained and any potential conflict declared by centre staff is centrally recorded on the log. The relevant awarding body/bodies is/are informed (where required by the nature of the conflict) of specific conflicts of interest/centre staff declarations before the published deadline for entries for each examination series by identifying and following the individual awarding body's administrative process. The agreed **measures/protocols taken/put in place to mitigate** any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected are recorded on the log and the affected member of staff informed of these measures/protocols.

Additional Information:

Not Applicable

Roles and Responsibilities the Role of the Head of Centre

- Ensure conflicts of interest are managed according to the requirements (GR 5.3).
- Ensure clear records are maintained and that the records include details of the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected (GR 5.3).
- Ensure the records are available where they may be requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and/or awarding body staff (GR 5.3).
- Ensure the records are retained until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later (GR 5.3).
- Ensure that entering members of centre staff for qualifications at this centre is as a last resort in cases where the member of centre staff is unable to find another centre
- Ensure that proper protocols are in place to prevent the member of centre staff having access to examination materials prior to the examination and that other centre staff are briefed on maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the examination materials.
- Ensure that during the examination series the member of centre staff is treated in the same way as any other candidate entered for that examination, does not have access to examination materials and does not receive any preferential treatment (GR 5.3).

Additional Responsibilities:

- Ensure that centre staff are aware of the requirement to declare any conflict of interest and Ensure that declarations are recorded/logged as potential conflicts of interest.

The Role of the Exam's Office/Officer

Ensure the process for collecting declarations of interest is undertaken.

Identify and follow the awarding body's administrative process for submitting details of members of staff who are:

- Taking qualifications which include internally assessed components/units at their own centre
- Teaching and preparing members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) for qualifications which include internally assessed components/units (GR 5.3)
- Retain the records of the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later (GR 5.3)

Additional responsibilities:

Not Applicable

Changes 2024/2025

Under heading **Introduction** reference to 'clear records' changed to **internal records** to reflect the change in GR 5.3j).

Centre-Specific Changes

No Centre specific changes made to this document

Reviewed: Kelly Jobson September 2024
Next Review Date: September 2025
Approved by Directors: 23 September 2024

Signed:



Lois Whitehouse
CEO



Nicky Aston
Chair of Standards