



Internal Appeals Policy

Scope:	Wisbech Grammar School Senior School (including Boarding)
Release date:	October 2024
Review date:	October 2025
Author:	Deputy Head Academic
Reviewer:	Examinations Officer
Approval body:	Board of Directors

Linked documents

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the:

- Exam Contingency Policy
- SENDA Policy (A2)
- Complaints and Appeals Policy

Acronym key

TA = Teaching Assistant
MIS = Management Information System
HoD = Head of Department
RoR = Reviews of Results
ATS = Access to Scripts
DHA = Deputy Head Academic

Availability

This policy is available on the School's website

Policy Statement

Scope

This policy applies to all pupils of Wisbech Grammar School Senior School (including Boarding).

Wisbech Grammar School will treat all pupils equally as throughout the examinations process, including post results.

Purpose of the procedure

This procedure confirms Wisbech Grammar School's compliance with JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres* (5.3z, 5.8) that the centre will:

- have in place for inspection, that must be reviewed and updated annually, a written internal appeals procedure which must cover at least appeals regarding internal assessment decisions, access to post-result services and appeals, and centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration
- draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers their internal appeals procedure

This procedure covers appeals relating to:

- Internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)
- Centre decisions not to support an application for clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal
- Centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration
- Centre decisions relating to other administrative issues

This policy covers all forms of public examinations including BTECs, orals, practicals and controlled assessments (Non-examined Assessments - NEAs)

Appeals relating to internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)

Certain qualifications contain components/units of non-examination assessment, controlled assessment and/or coursework which are internally assessed (marked) by centres and internally standardised. The marks awarded (the internal assessment decisions) which contribute to the final grade of the qualification are then submitted by the deadline set by the awarding body for external moderation.

This procedure confirms Wisbech Grammar School's compliance with JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres* (section 5.7) that the centre will:

- have in place for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually, 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
- before submitting marks to the awarding body inform candidates of their centre assessed marks and allow a candidate to request a review of the centre's marking

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

Wisbech Grammar School ensures that all centre staff follow a robust policy regarding the management of Non-examination assessment including controlled assessments and coursework. This policy details the procedures relating to non-examination assessments (NEA) for GCE, GCSE, Extended Project Qualifications, including the marking and quality assurance/internal standardisation processes which relevant teaching staff are required to follow.

Candidates' work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skill, who have been trained in this activity and do not have any potential conflicts of interest. If AI tools have been used to assist in the marking of candidates' work, they will not be the sole marker. Wisbech Grammar School is committed to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body. Where more than one subject teacher is 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 their work, or that the assessor has not properly applied the mark scheme to the marking, then the candidate may make use of the appeals procedure below to consider whether to request a review of the centre's marking.

Wisbech Grammar School will:

1. 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. inform candidates that they will need to explain on what grounds they wish to request a review of an internally assessed mark as a review will only focus on the quality of work submitted
3. inform candidates that they may request copies of materials (for example, a copy of their marked work, the relevant specification, the mark scheme and any other associated subject-specific documents) to assist them in considering whether to request a review of the centre's marking of the assessment.
4. having received a request for copies of materials, promptly make them available to the candidate within 5 calendar days. (This will either be the originals viewed under supervised conditions or copies)
5. inform candidate they will not be allowed access to original assessment material, including artefacts, unless supervised
6. provide candidates with sufficient time to allow them to review copies of materials and reach a decision.
7. 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 within 2 calendar days of receiving copies of the requested materials by completing the internal appeals form. This is at the end of the policy and will be provided when requested. Candidate must explain on what grounds they wish to request a review

8. allow 5 calendar days 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.
9. 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.
10. instruct the reviewer to ensure that the candidate's mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre.
11. inform the candidate in writing of the outcome of the review of the centre's marking.

The outcome of the review of the centre's marking will be made known to the head of centre who will have the final decision if there is any disagreement on the mark to be submitted to the awarding body. A written record of the review will be kept and made available to the awarding body upon request.

The awarding body will be informed if the centre does not accept the outcome of a review.

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 decisions to reject a candidate's work on the grounds of malpractice

The JCQ *Information for candidates documents* (Coursework, Non-examination assessments, Social media) which are distributed to all candidates prior to relevant assessments taking place, inform candidates of the things they must and must not do when they are completing their work.

Wisbech Grammar School ensures that those members of teaching staff involved in the direct supervision of candidates producing work for assessments are aware of the potential for malpractice.

Malpractice by a candidate discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment component prior to the candidate signing the declaration of authentication does not need to be reported to the awarding body but will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's internal procedures. The only exception to this is where the awarding body's confidential assessment material has potentially been breached. The breach will be reported to the awarding body immediately.

If there are doubts about the authenticity of the work of a candidate or irregularities are identified in a candidate's work before the candidate has signed the declaration of authentication/authentication statement (where required) and malpractice is suspected, this should be reported in the first

instance to the Deputy Head Academic. On behalf of the centre, the DHA will follow the authentication procedures and/or malpractice procedures from the JCQ document *Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments* (GCE and GCSE specifications) 2024-25 alongside any specific guidance outlined by the awarding body. This includes a thorough investigation by the DHA and subject teacher and/or Head of Department. If this then results in a candidate's work being rejected on the grounds of malpractice, the candidate will be informed of the decision.

If a candidate who is the subject of the decision disagrees with the decision:

- The candidate should request and submit an appeal on an internal appeals form within 5 days of the decision being made known to the candidate.
- This should set out as clearly and concisely as possible the grounds for the appeal including any further evidence relevant to supporting the appeal, should be submitted.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within 5 calendar days of the appeal being received and logged by the centre.

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 Wisbech Grammar School compliance with JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres 2024-2025* (section 5.13) that the centre will:

have available for inspection purposes and draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers, a written internal appeals procedure to manage disputes when a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal

Following the issue of results, awarding bodies make post-results services available. Forms to request access to scripts or reviews of marking, with details of fees and deadlines, are provided on results days by the Examinations Co-ordinator. Candidates are also informed of the arrangements for post-results services prior to the issue of results and the accessibility of senior members of centre staff immediately after the publication of results. Details of these arrangements are provided by the Examinations Co-ordinator and Senior Leadership Team

If the centre or a candidate (or their parent/carer) has a concern and believes a result may not be accurate, post-results services may be considered.

The JCQ post-results services currently available are detailed below.

Reviews of Results (RoRs):

- Service 1 (Clerical re-check)
This is the only service that can be requested for objective tests (multiple choice tests)
- Service 2 (Review of marking)
- Priority Service 2 (priority Review of marking)
This service is only available for externally assessed components of GCE A-level specifications. It is also available for Level 3 Vocational and Technical qualifications

- Service 3 (Review of moderation)
This service is not available to an individual candidate

Access to Scripts (ATS):

- Copies of scripts to support reviews of marking
- Copies of scripts to support teaching and learning

Where a concern is expressed that a particular result may not be accurate, the centre will look at the marks awarded for each component part of the qualification alongside any mark schemes, relevant result reports, grade boundary information etc. when made available by the awarding body to determine if the centre supports any concerns.

For written components that contributed to the final result, the centre will:

1. Where a place at university or college is at risk, consider supporting a request for a Priority Service 2 review of marking (where the qualification concerned is eligible for this service)
2. In all other instances, consider accessing the script by:
(where the service is made available by the awarding body) requesting a priority copy of the candidate's script to support a review of marking by the awarding body deadline or
(where the option is made available by the awarding body) viewing the candidate's marked script online to consider if requesting a review of marking is appropriate
3. Collect informed written consent/permission from the candidate to access their script
4. On access to the script, consider if it is felt that the agreed mark scheme has been applied correctly in the original marking and if the centre considers there are any errors in the marking
5. Support a request for the appropriate RoR service (clerical re-check or review of marking) if any error is identified
6. Collect informed written consent from the candidate to request the RoR service before the request is submitted
7. Where relevant, advise an affected candidate to inform any third party (such as a university or college) that a review of marking has been submitted to an awarding body

Written candidate consent (informed consent via candidate email is acceptable) is required in all cases before a request for a RoR service 1 or 2 (including priority service 2) is submitted to the awarding body. Consent is required to confirm the candidate understands that the final subject grade and/or mark awarded following a clerical re-check or a review of marking, and any subsequent appeal, may be lower than, higher than, or the same as the result which was originally awarded. Candidate consent must only be collected after the publication of results.

Forms to request Access to Scripts or Reviews of Marking are available from the Examinations Co-Ordinator on results days. Request forms can be emailed subsequently up to the internal deadline. Forms received after the internal deadline will not be accepted.

For any moderated components that contributed to the final result, the centre will:

- Confirm that a review of moderation cannot be undertaken on the work of an individual candidate or the work of candidates not in the original sample submitted for moderation
- Consult any moderator's report/feedback to identify any issues raised
- Determine if the centre's internally assessed marks have been accepted without change by the awarding body – if this is the case, a RoR service 3 (Review of moderation) will not be available

- Determine if there are any grounds to submit a request for a review of moderation for the work of candidates in the original sample

Where a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking or a review of moderation, the centre will:

- For a review of marking (RoR priority service 2), advise the candidate they may request the review by providing informed written consent (and the required fee) for this service to the centre by the deadline set by the centre
- For a review of marking (RoR service 1 or 2), first advise the candidate to access their script to support a review of marking by providing written permission for the centre to access the script (and any required fee) for this service to the centre to submit this request
- After accessing the script to consider the marking, inform the candidate that if a request for a review of marking (RoR service 1 or 2) is required, this must be submitted by the deadline set by the centre by providing informed written consent (and the required fee) for this service to the centre to submit this request
- Inform the candidate that a review of moderation (RoR service 3) cannot be requested for the work of an individual candidate or the work of a candidate not in the original sample

If the candidate (or their parent/carer) believes there are grounds to appeal against the centre's decision not to support a review of results, an internal appeal can be submitted to the centre by completing the internal appeals form at least 7 calendar days prior to the internal deadline for submitting a request for a review of results. The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within 5 days.

Following the RoR 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 RoR outcome, but the candidate (or their 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 7 calendar days of the notification of the outcome of the RoR. Subject to the head of centre's decision, this will allow the centre to process the preliminary appeal and submit to the awarding body within the required 30 calendar days of receiving the outcome of the review of results process. Awarding body fees which may be charged for the preliminary appeal must be paid to the centre by the appellant before the preliminary appeal is submitted to the awarding body (fees are available from the Examinations Co-ordinator). 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.

Appeals regarding centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration

This procedure confirms Wisbech Grammar School's compliance with JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres* (section 5.3z) that the centre will:

- have in place for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually, a written internal appeals procedure which must cover at least appeals regarding... centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration

Wisbech Grammar School will:

- comply with the principles and regulations governing access arrangements and special consideration as set out in the JCQ publications *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments* and *A guide to the special consideration process*
- ensure that all staff who manage and implement access arrangements and special consideration are aware of the requirements and are appropriately supported and resourced

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

In accordance with the regulations, Wisbech Grammar School:

- recognises its 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
- complies with its responsibilities in identifying, determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

Failure to comply with the regulations has the potential to constitute malpractice which may impact on a candidate's result(s).

Examples of failure to comply include:

- putting in place access arrangements/adjustments that are not approved
- failing to consider putting in place access arrangements (which may be a failure to comply with the duty to make reasonable adjustments)
- permitting access arrangements/adjustments within the centre which are not supported by appropriate evidence
- charging a fee for providing reasonable adjustments to disabled candidates

Special consideration

Where Wisbech Grammar School has appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team to support an application, it will apply for special consideration at the time of the assessment for a candidate who is affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control when the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on the candidate's ability to take an assessment or demonstrate their normal level of attainment in an assessment.

Centre decisions relating to access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration

This may include Wisbech Grammar School's decision not to make/apply for a specific reasonable adjustment or to apply for special consideration, in circumstances where a candidate does not meet the criteria for, or there is no evidence/insufficient evidence to support the implementation of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment or the application of special consideration.

Where Wisbech Grammar School makes a decision in relation to the access arrangement(s), reasonable adjustment(s) or special consideration that apply for a candidate or candidates:

- If a candidate who is the subject of the relevant decision (or the candidate's parent/carer) disagrees with the decision made and reasonably believes that the centre has not complied with its responsibilities or followed due procedures, a written request setting out the grounds for appeal should be submitted
- An internal appeals form should be completed and submitted within 5 calendar days of the decision being made known to the appellant.

To determine the outcome of the appeal, the head of centre will consult the respective JCQ publication to confirm the centre has complied with the principles and regulations governing access arrangements and/or special consideration and followed due procedures.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within 5 calendar days of the appeal being received and logged by the centre.

If the appeal is upheld, Wisbech Grammar School will proceed to implement the necessary arrangements/submit the necessary application.

- Appeal against an internal assessment decision and/or request for a review of marking
- Appeal against the centre's decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal

Internal appeals form	FOR CENTRE USE ONLY	
	Date received	
Please tick box to indicate the nature of your appeal and complete all white boxes on the form below	Reference No.	

This form must be signed, dated and returned to the Examinations Co-ordinator on behalf of the head of centre to the timescale indicated in the relevant appeals procedure.

Name of appellant		Candidate name if different to appellant	
Awarding body		Exam paper code	
Subject		Exam paper title	

Please state the grounds for your appeal below

(If applicable, tick below)

Where my appeal is against an internal assessment decision, I wish to request a review of the centre's marking

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

Appellant signature:

Date of signature:

