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# **Complaints Policy (Exams)**

## **2025-2026**

Queen Elizabeth II High School

## Complaints Policy (Exams) 2025-2026

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Centre name                | Queen Elizabeth II High School |
| Centre number              | 45011                          |
| Date policy first created  | 06/10/2025                     |
| Current policy approved by | Mr Steven Slack                |
| Current policy reviewed by | Mrs Paula Venezia              |
| Date of review             | 06/10/2025                     |
| Date of next review        | 06/10/2026                     |

### Key staff involved in the policy

| Role                        | Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Head of centre              | Mrs Charlotte Clarke                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Senior leader(s)            | Mr Jason Coole (Deputy Head), Mrs Julie Ozer (Business Manager), Mrs Joanne Steriopulos (Assistant Head), Mr John Kinley (Assistant Head), Mrs Olivia Graham (Assistant Head) Mr Steven Slack (Assistant Head Exams, Data and Assessment) |
| Exams officer               | Mrs Paula Venezia                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Other staff (if applicable) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any complaints at Queen Elizabeth II High School are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

## Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements for complaints at Queen Elizabeth II High School and confirms compliance with JCQ's **General Regulations for Approved Centres** (5.3, 5.8) in drawing to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers our written complaints policy which covers general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification and our internal appeals procedure.

## Grounds for complaint

A candidate (or their/parent/carer) at Queen Elizabeth II High School may make a complaint on the grounds below (This is not an exhaustive list).

### Teaching and Learning

- 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 make a decision 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:

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The marking

of an internal assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not undertaken according to the requirements of the awarding body (complainant should refer to the centre's internal appeals procedure).

•The complaints procedure should not be used for challenging assessment decisions – the centre's appeals procedure should be used for this.

### 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 was not informed that an application for access arrangements was to be processed using *Access arrangements online*, complying with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018
- 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 requests 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 the 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, Queen Elizabeth II High School encourages an informal resolution in the first instance.

This can be undertaken by:

- telephone or in writing
- to the Head of Centre (Mrs Charlotte Clarke).
- the complaint will be logged and recorded and a response will be provided within seven working days, where possible.

If a complaint fails to be resolved informally,

- the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) is then at liberty to make a formal complaint.

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:

- The Head of Centre (Mrs Charlotte Clarke)

Formal complaints will be logged and acknowledged within:

- 5 working days.

To make a formal complaint, candidates (or parents/carers) must:

- Complete a Complaint Form in line with the Department of Education Sport and Culture (DESC)
- Complaints Procedure Forms are available from the school website.

### **How a formal complaint is investigated**

The Head of Centre (Mrs Charlotte Clarke) 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:

- 20 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:

- raise the matter with the Head of Centre (Mrs CharlotteClarke) - Primary and Secondary School complaints.
- alternatively, if the matter has still not been resolved to candidates' (or parents/carers) satisfaction they can send a letter to the Complaints Officer,Hamilton House, Peel Road, Douglas IM1 5EZ  
or by
  - email to admin.dec@doe.gov.im.

Appeals will be logged and acknowledged within:

- 5 working days

The appeal will be referred to:

- Heads of Centre (Mrs Charlotte Clarke)  
and
  - Senior Leadership team (Mr Steven Slack)
- as detailed in the centre's appeal procedure

It will be the responsibility of

- Head of Centre (Mrs Charlotte Clarke) and
- Senior Leadership team (Mr Steven Slack)

as detailed in the centres appeal procedure to

- inform the appellant of the final conclusion in accordance with the internal appeals procedure.

Additional details on the internal appeals process:

Not applicable

### **Complaints to SQA**

Candidates of SQA qualifications also have the right to complain to SQA awarding body. SQA will only consider a candidate's complaint if they have already gone through all stages of the DESC complaints procedure and remain dissatisfied with the outcome, or the way in which the centre has handled a candidate's complaint.

#### **SQA will deal with complaints about:**

- Assessment – in the broadest sense, including the conduct of, preparation for, and environment for, assessment
- Dissatisfaction with the way in which the centre handled the complaint

#### **SQA will not deal with complaints about:**

- Assessment decisions (Use Appeals or Post-results Services for this complaint)
- The wider experience of being a candidate.

## **Changes 2025/2026**

(update 01/10/2025)

(Removed/replaced) Under heading **Access arrangements and special consideration** removed reference to **candidate personal data consent form**/replaced with reference to complying with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018

## **Centre-specific changes**

Upon review in October 2025, no centre-specific changes were made to this document.