

EXAM MALPRACTICE POLICY

Term of policy: Annual

Approved by: LGB 18.11.25

Date ratified: BoT 11.12.25

Next Review Date: Autumn 2026

Author: S. Subra; C.Chan

Sources: The Exams Office, JCQ

Online location: Policies

Consulted with JCC? Yes ☐ No ☒

Introduction

This policy replaces any previous policy and follows the DfE regulations.

As part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, we have carefully considered the impact of this policy on equality. The school will ensure that this policy is applied fairly to all employees and does not have a negative impact on students or staff with protected characteristics, race, sex, religion and belief, sexual orientation, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

Centre name	Rooks Heath School
Centre number	12746
Date policy first created	6/10/2025
Current policy approved by	
Current policy reviewed by	S Subra, C Chan
Date of next review	Autumn 2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of Centre	Miriam Manderson
Senior leader(s)	Seher Subra (DHT)
Exams officer	Chor Lan Chan
Other staff (if applicable)	Exams and Assessment Team Leader: Angela Haines Exams and Data Assistant: Nisha Kerai Data Assistant: Asha Fernandes

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any malpractice at Rooks Heath School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in the policy to GR and SMPP relate to relevant sections of the current JCQ publications General Regulations for Approved Centres and Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures.

Introduction

What is malpractice and maladministration?

'Malpractice' and 'maladministration' are related concepts, the common theme of which is that they involve a failure to follow the rules of an examination or assessment. This policy and procedure uses the word 'malpractice' to cover both 'malpractice' and 'maladministration' and it means any act, default or practice which is:

- a breach of the Regulations
- a breach of awarding body requirements regarding how a qualification should be delivered
- a failure to follow established procedures in relation to a qualification which:
- gives rise to prejudice to candidates
- compromises public confidence in qualifications
- compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of a result or certificate
- damages the authority, reputation or credibility of any awarding body or centre or any officer, employee or agent of any awarding body or centre (SMPP 1).

Candidate malpractice

'Candidate malpractice' means malpractice by a candidate in connection with any examination or assessment, including the preparation and authentication of any controlled assessments, coursework or non-examination assessments, the presentation of any practical work, the compilation of portfolios of assessment evidence and the writing of any examination paper. (SMPP 2)

Centre staff malpractice

'Centre staff malpractice' means malpractice committed by:

- a member of staff, contractor (whether employed under a contract of employment or a contract for services) or a volunteer at a centre; or
- an individual appointed in another capacity by a centre such as an invigilator, a Communication Professional, a Language Modifier, a practical assistant, a prompter, a reader or a scribe (SMPP 2)

Suspected malpractice

For the purposes of this document, suspected malpractice means all alleged or suspected incidents of malpractice. (SMPP 2)

Purpose of the policy

To confirm Rooks Heath School:

- has in place a written malpractice policy which covers all qualifications delivered by the centre and details how candidates are informed and advised to avoid committing malpractice in examinations/assessments, how suspected malpractice issues should be escalated within the centre and reported to the relevant awarding body (GR 5.3)

General principles

In accordance with the regulations Rooks Heath School will:

- Take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after examinations have taken place (GR 5.11)
- Inform the awarding body immediately of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, by completing the appropriate documentation (GR 5.11)
- As required by an awarding body, gather evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) in accordance with the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures (SMPP) and provide such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require (GR 5.11)

Preventing malpractice

Rooks Heath School has in place:

- Robust processes to prevent and identify malpractice, as outlined in section 3 of the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures. (SMPP 4.3)
- This includes ensuring that all staff involved in the delivery of assessments and examinations understand the requirements for conducting these as specified in the following JCQ documents and any further awarding body guidance: General Regulations for Approved Centres 2025–2026; Instructions for Conducting Examinations (ICE) 2025–2026; Instructions for Conducting Coursework 2025–2026; Instructions for Conducting Non-Examination Assessments 2025–2026; Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2025–2026; A Guide to the Special Consideration Process 2025–2026; Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures (SMPP) 2025–2026; Plagiarism in Assessments; AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications; A Guide to the Awarding Bodies' Appeals Processes 2025–2026 (SMPP 3.3.1)

Informing and advising candidates how to avoid committing malpractice in examinations/assessments

- All students preparing to sit examinations (Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13) receive an annual assembly on how to avoid malpractice in examinations and assessments (including Non-Examined Assessments). This assembly involves sharing up-to-date JCQ guidance, including on plagiarism and on the use of A.I. This usually takes place in the Autumn term, and is shared with staff so the same messages can be reinforced in lessons by candidates' subject teachers.

AI Use in Assessments

- Students complete the majority of examinations written on paper in examination conditions without any access to the internet or any A.I. Where subjects have non-examined assessment, students complete this work over time and under supervised conditions in school so the teacher can authenticate it is the students' own work. All teaching staff have training on how to recognise content produced by A.I. and how to use A.I. checkers.

Identification and reporting of malpractice

- Escalating suspected malpractice issues
- Once suspected malpractice is identified, any member of staff at the centre can report it using the appropriate channels (SMPP 4.3)

Any suspected malpractice that involves a student or staff member must be reported to the Exams Officer who will inform the Award Body immediately. Any suspected malpractice involving a member of the Examinations Team, should inform the Head of Centre.

Reporting suspected malpractice to the awarding body

- The head of centre will notify the appropriate awarding body immediately of all alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice, using the appropriate forms, and will conduct any investigation and gathering of information in accordance with the requirements of the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures (SMPP 4.1.3)
- The head of centre will ensure that where a candidate who is a child/vulnerable adult is the subject of a malpractice investigation, the candidate's parent/carer/ appropriate adult is kept informed of the progress of the investigation (SMPP 4.1.3)
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of candidate malpractice. Form JCQ/M2 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of suspected staff malpractice/maladministration (SMPP 4.4, 4.6)
- Malpractice by a candidate discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non- examination assessment component prior to the candidate signing the declaration of authentication need not 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 (SMPP 4.5)
- If, in the view of the investigator, there is sufficient evidence to implicate an individual in malpractice, that individual (a candidate or a member of staff) will be informed of the rights of accused individuals (SMPP 5.33)
- Once the information gathering has concluded, the head of centre (or other appointed information-gatherer) will submit a written report summarising the information obtained and actions taken to the relevant awarding body, accompanied by the information obtained during the course of their enquiries (5.35)
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used when reporting candidate cases; for centre staff, form JCQ/M3 will be used (SMPP 5.37)
- The awarding body will decide on the basis of the report, and any supporting documentation, whether there is evidence of malpractice and if any further investigation is required. The head of centre will be informed accordingly (SMPP 5.40).

Communicating malpractice decisions

- Once a decision has been made, it will be communicated in writing to the head of centre as soon as possible. The head of centre will communicate the decision to the individuals concerned and pass on details of any sanctions and action in cases where this is indicated. The head of centre will also inform the individuals if they have the right to appeal. (SMPP 11.1)

Appeals against decisions made in cases of malpractice

Rooks Heath School will:

- Provide the individual with information on the process and timeframe for submitting an appeal, where relevant
- Refer to further information and follow the process provided in the JCQ publication A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes.

Updates for JCQ Compliance 2025–2026

- Reference JCQ's 'AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications' guidance. Misuse of AI, such as submitting AI-generated work as one's own, is considered malpractice. Staff and students must be aware of Appendix 2 in JCQ's SMPP, which includes examples of malpractice involving AI.
- If a candidate is a child or vulnerable adult, their parent/carer/appropriate adult must be kept informed throughout the investigation process.
- Ensure JCQ/M1 (candidate malpractice), JCQ/M2 (suspected staff malpractice), and JCQ/M3 (report into suspected staff malpractice) forms are the 2025–2026 versions and available to staff.
- Any breach of confidential assessment materials must be reported immediately, even if it occurs before authentication is signed.
- Individuals accused of malpractice must be informed of their rights, including the right to respond and appeal.
- Appeals must follow [JCQ's Appeals Process Guide 2025–2026](#). The centre will support individuals in accessing this process.
- Failure to report, investigate, or cooperate with an awarding body's investigation is itself considered malpractice.