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| **Role** | Name(s) |
| **Head of Centre** | Doug Thomas |
| **SENDCo**  | Lois Hook |
| **Exams Officer** | Sam Briscoe, Sue Coldwell |
| **SLT Member(s)** | Sam Channon, Ben Thomas |

What is special consideration?

Special consideration is given to a candidate who has temporarily experienced illness, injury or some other event outside their control at the time of the assessment. It is applied when the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a candidate’s ability to take an assessment.

Special consideration can only seek to go some way to assist a candidate affected by a potentially wide range of difficulties, emotional or physical, which may influence performance in examinations. It cannot remove the difficulty faced by the candidate. There will be situations where candidates should not be entered for an examination. Only minor adjustments can be made to the mark awarded because to do more than this would jeopardize the standard of the examination.

[JCQ A guide to the special consideration process](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance) - Chapter 1

This document is further referred to in this policy as [Special Considerations](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance)

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to identify roles and responsibilities in the special consideration process and confirms that West Sussex Alternative Provision College (WSAPC) will *“submit any applications for special consideration where candidates meet the published criteria.”*

[JCQ General regulations for approved centres](https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/general-regulations/) Chapter 5.9.i

Eligibility for special consideration

Roles and responsibilities

Head Teacher/Head of School/Centre Manager

* Is familiar with the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication [Special Considerations](https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance).
* Ensures that, where relevant and in eligible situations, applications for special consideration will be submitted to awarding bodies by the exams officer.

Exams officer

* Understands the criteria as detailed in [Special Considerations](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance) to determine where candidates will/will not be eligible for special consideration.
* Ensures that, where relevant and in eligible situations, applications for special consideration will be submitted to awarding bodies.

Teaching staff and/or SENDCo/ALS lead

* Provide any appropriate evidence or information that may be required to determine a candidate’s eligibility for special consideration.

Candidates (or parents/carers)

* Provide any medical or other evidence that may be required to determine eligibility for special consideration.

Applying for special consideration

Where eligible, special consideration will be applied for at the time of the assessment in a specific exam series where candidates *“have been fully prepared and have covered the whole course but performance in the examination, or in the production of controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment, is materially affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control.”*

[Special Considerations](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance) 2.1

For candidates who are present for the assessment, but disadvantaged WSAPC must be satisfied that there has been a material detrimental effect on candidate examination performance or in the production of coursework or non-examination assessment. ([Special Considerations](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance), section3)

Where a candidate may arrive for an exam and is clearly unwell, extremely distressed and/or may have sustained an injury that requires emergency access arrangements to be put in place:

* The candidate will be kept comfortable and under centre supervision from the required time while appropriate arrangements are put in place for him/her to take the exam in the best possible conditions.
* A judgement will be made on how the candidate’s situation or disposition affected performance in the exam.
* Where appropriate and where eligible, special consideration will be applied for.

Where candidates may be affected by a major disturbance in the exam room (emergency evacuation, etc.), special consideration is applied for on behalf of all candidates.

Where a candidate takes multiple exams (three or more exams) timetabled for the same day and the total duration for those papers is more than 5 hours 30 minutes for GCSE exams including *any approved extra time but not any time taken for supervised rest breaks,* special consideration for an allowance on last paper taken will be applied for.

Where a candidate may be affected by a minor disturbance in the exam room caused by another candidate (momentary bad behaviour, mobile phone ringing, etc.), special consideration cannot be applied for.

If a candidate is absent from a timetabled component/unit for acceptable reasons, and the centre could support this, special consideration is applied for if the exam missed is in the terminal series and the *minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence* can be met. ([Special Considerations](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance), section 4.1)

For unitised examinations taken in an examination series prior to certification, candidates must be re-entered for any missed units at the next assessment opportunity. Unless there are difficulties arising e.g., group performances which cannot be repeated, special consideration will not be awarded. ([Special Considerations](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance), section 4.2)

Where other issues or problems affect a candidate or a group of candidates, special consideration will be explored in [Special Considerations](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance), section 5 and applied for where eligible. This might include, for example:

* Other certification.
* A short extension to controlled assessment/coursework/non-examination assessment deadlines.
* Submitting a reduced quantity of controlled assessment/coursework/non-examination assessment (shortfall in work).
* Lost or damaged work.
* Candidates taking an incorrect or defective question paper.
* Candidates undertaking the wrong controlled assessment assignment or non-examination assessment.

Where a candidate may be eligible for special consideration (a post assessment adjustment) in a vocational qualification, the centre will follow [Special Considerations](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance) section 7 and awarding body guidance to determine if, when and how an adjustment can be applied for.

Processing applications for special consideration

Roles and responsibilities

Head of Centre/Senior Leadership

* Produce signed evidence in support of all eligible applications.

Head of School/Centre Manager

* Ensures where a candidate may be member of the family (which includes stepfamily, foster-family and similar close relationships) of the exams officer, the application will be authorised by an alternative member of centre staff.
* Ensure that all eligible applications will be supported by signed evidence produced by a member of the senior leadership.
* Inform a candidate when an application for special consideration is submitted to the awarding body. Ensuring the centre is complying with the UK GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018.

Exams officer

* Understands that special consideration must be applied for at the time of the assessment, or before the special consideration deadline just after the end of the exam series.
* Understands that special consideration cannot be applied in a cumulative fashion and that where a candidate may be affected by different indispositions, special consideration should only be applied for the most serious indisposition.
* Ensures applications will be processed as required by the awarding bodies.
* Keeps evidence to support all applications on file until after the publication of results and provides the signed evidence provided by a member of the senior leadership team to support an application where this may be requested by an awarding body.
* Meets the required deadline(s) for submitting applications.

Teaching staff and/or SENDCo/ALS lead

* Provide any appropriate evidence or information that may be required to support a candidate’s application for special consideration.

Candidates (or parents/carers)

* Will be asked to provide any required medical or other evidence that may be required to support an application for special consideration.
* Will be informed that all cases must be dealt with by the centre.

Submitting applications for special consideration

Where a candidate or group of candidates is/are eligible for special consideration applications will be submitted to the relevant awarding body following the published processes in [Special Considerations](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration).

Evidence to support applications will be kept on file until after the publication of results.

Timetabled written exams

* For GCE and GCSE qualifications, applications for individual candidates will be submitted online by logging into the relevant awarding body secure extranet site and following the links to special consideration.
* The processes for submitting a single application to cover all exams affected *where a candidate is present but disadvantaged* and a separate application for each day *where a candidate is absent from an examination for an acceptable reason* detailed in [Special Considerations](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration) section 6 will be followed.
* For other qualifications, applications will be submitted online where the awarding body’s secure system accepts these
* The paper [form 10](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms) *Application for special consideration* will only be completed and submitted to the awarding body where the online system does not accept applications for a particular qualification.
* For cases involving groups of candidates, applications will be made online where the awarding body’s secure system accepts group applications or [form 10](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms) will be completed.
* The paper [form 14](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms) *Self certification for candidates who have missed an examination* will only be completed by a candidate where circumstances warrant this and is not used where the centre knows the candidate was ill.

Internally assessed work

* Where appropriate, applications will be made online where the awarding body’s secure system accepts them or [form 10](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms) will be completed and submitted to the awarding body.
* Where a short extension to a work submission deadline for an individual candidate is being requested, an application will be submitted online or by direct email, dependent on the awarding body.
* Where an application relates to a shortfall in work for an individual candidate, this will be submitted online or by completing [form 10](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms), dependent on the awarding body.
* Where an application relates to lost or damaged work, this will be submitted online or by completing [form 15](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms) *Notification of lost centre assessed work*, dependent on the awarding body.

Post assessment adjustments – vocational qualifications

* Where relevant and eligible, [form VQ/SC](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/forms) *Application for special consideration Vocational qualifications* will be completed and submitted to the awarding body.

Late applications

* If, after the publication of results for a particular exam series, a claim is made that special consideration was not applied for at the time of an assessment where a candidate was eligible, the claimant will be informed that late applications will only be accepted by an awarding body in the most exceptional circumstances and where a member of the senior leadership team is able to produce evidence to support a late application.
* If a claim is made after the completion of a review of results, the claimant will be informed that an application for special consideration cannot be submitted.

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| **ISSUED** | April 2017 |
| **ADOPTED BY WSAPC** | April 2017 |
| **REVIEWED** | November 2022 |
| **NEXT REVIEW DATE** | November 2023 |