



Exam Contingency Plan

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Purpose of the plan

This plan examines potential risks and issues that could cause disruption to the management and administration of the exam process at Bradford Academy.

By outlining actions/procedures to be followed in case of disruption it is intended to mitigate the impact these disruptions have on our exam process.

Alongside internal processes, this plan is informed by information contained in the *Joint contingency plan for the examination system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* where it is stated that “Centres should prepare plans for any disruption to examinations as part of their general emergency planning. It is important to ensure that relevant centre staff are familiar with the plan. Consideration should be given as to how these arrangements will be communicated to candidates, parents and staff should disruption to examinations occur.”

Causes of potential disruption to the exam process

1. Exam Officer extended absence at key points in the exam process (cycle)

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Key tasks required in the management and administration of the exam cycle not undertaken including:

- **Planning**
 - annual data collection exercise not undertaken to collate information on qualifications and awarding body specifications being delivered
 - annual exams timetable not produced identifying essential key tasks, key dates and deadlines
 - sufficient invigilators not recruited and trained
- **Entries**
 - awarding bodies not being informed of early/estimated entries which prompts release of early information required by teaching staff
 - candidates not being entered with awarding bodies for external exams/assessment
 - awarding body entry deadlines missed or late or other penalty fees being incurred
- **Pre-exams**
 - exam timetabling, rooming allocation; and invigilation schedules not prepared
 - candidates not briefed on exam timetables and awarding body information for candidates
 - exam/assessment materials and candidates’ work not stored under required secure conditions
 - internal assessment marks and samples of candidates’ work not submitted to awarding bodies/external moderators

- **Exam time**
 - exams/assessments not taken under the conditions prescribed by awarding bodies
 - required reports/requests not submitted to awarding bodies during exam/assessment periods e.g. very late arrival, suspected malpractice, special consideration
 - candidates' scripts not dispatched as required to awarding bodies
- **Results and post-results**
 - access to examination results affecting the distribution of results to candidates
 - the facilitation of the post-results services

Centre actions:

- Head of Centre to appoint member of administrative staff to take over responsibilities should absence of EO have the potential to affect the meeting of deadlines.
- Staff member to work closely with EO to ensure they are up to date with the exam cycle and responsibilities at each point in time. This will be done under the supervision of the Operations Director and Head of Centre.

2. SENCo extended absence at key points in the exam cycle

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Key tasks required in the management and administration of the access arrangements process within the exam cycle not undertaken including:
- **Planning**
 - candidates not tested/assessed to identify potential access arrangement requirements
 - evidence of need and evidence to support normal way of working not collated
- **Pre-exams**
 - approval for access arrangements not applied for to the awarding body
 - modified paper requirements not identified in a timely manner to enable ordering to meet external deadline
 - staff providing support to access arrangement candidates not allocated and trained
- **Exam time**
 - access arrangement candidate support not arranged for exam rooms

Centre actions:

- Head of centre responsible for ensuring position is filled should absence have the potential to disrupt exam preparation.
- EO to ensure access arrangements are in place by the Spring term of Year 10 for all students where possible.
- EO to plan access arrangements for exam days in advance of the Summer series, in consultation with SENCo

3. Teaching staff extended absence at key points in the exam cycle

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Key tasks not undertaken including:

- Early/estimated entry information not provided to the exams officer on time; resulting in pre-release information not being received
- Final entry information not provided to the exams officer on time; resulting in:
 - candidates not being entered for exams/assessments or being entered late
 - late or other penalty fees being charged by awarding bodies
- Internal assessment marks and candidates' work not provided to meet submission deadlines

Centre actions:

- EO responsible for ensuring deadlines are met for estimated entries and entries. Any omissions to be referred to Head of Centre.
- Head of Centre responsible for ensuring the priority for teaching is the examination cohort and staff will be covered in good time, by trained professionals, in all circumstances.

4. Invigilators - lack of appropriately trained invigilators or invigilator absence

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Failure to recruit and train sufficient invigilators to conduct exams
- Invigilator shortage on peak exam days
- Invigilator absence on the day of an exam

Centre actions:

- EO responsible for recruitment of invigilators on an ongoing basis. Advance planning required ensuring enough are available for the internal and external exam sittings.
- Head of Centre to be informed if recruitment necessary.
- Other associate staff to also receive up dated exam invigilator training to ensure back up is available in case of invigilator absence.

5. Exam rooms - lack of appropriate rooms or main venues unavailable at short notice

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Exams officer unable to identify sufficient/appropriate rooms during exams timetable planning
- Insufficient rooms available on peak exam days
- Main exam venues unavailable due to an expected incident at exam time

Centre actions:

- EO responsible for ensuring planning of rooms is completed by the end of the Spring term to identify potential rooming issues.
- Alternative venues within the school to be made available by teaching staff in the event of an unexpected incident.
- Operations Manager to liaise with EO to ensure no disruption due to room shortages.

6. Failure of IT systems or Cyber Attack

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- SIMS system failure at final entry deadline
- SIMS system failure during exams preparation

- SIMS system failure at results release time

Centre actions:

- EO to contact awarding bodies directly to arrange alternative methods of information exchange.
- Head of Centre and IT department to be informed.

Criteria for implementation of the plan

Where a cyber-attack may compromise any aspect of delivery

Centre actions to mitigate the impact of the disruption

This would be in the data protection policy

7. Disruption of teaching time – centre closed for an extended period

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Centre closed or candidates are unable to attend for an extended period during normal teaching or study supported time, interrupting the provision of normal teaching and learning.

Centre actions:

- Head of Centre responsible for finding alternative venues/methods of learning.
- Priority given to exam cohort.
- Centre to communicate with parents and students.

8. Centre unable to open as normal during the exams period

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Centre unable to open as normal for scheduled examinations
- *In the event that the head of centre decides the centre cannot be opened for scheduled examinations, the relevant awarding body must be informed as soon as possible. Awarding bodies will be able to offer advice regarding the alternative arrangements for conducting examinations that may be available and the options for candidates who have not been able to take scheduled examinations.

Centre actions:

- Open for candidates only if possible.
- Use alternative venue, in agreement with awarding organisations.
- Offer students the opportunity to sit the next series if applicable.

9. Candidates unable to take examinations because of a crisis – centre remains open

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Candidates are unable to attend the examination centre to take examinations as normal

Centre actions:

- Procedures for absence outlined to students in examination booklet information given each year.

- EO to liaise with student and parents to find alternative venue/advice on next opportunity to sit the examination/apply for special consideration as required.

10. Disruption to the transportation of completed examination scripts

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Delay in normal collection arrangements for completed examination scripts

Centre actions:

- EO to communicate with awarding bodies for approval of alternative delivery arrangements
- Able to send scripts via Royal Mail is Parcelforce do not arrive.

11. Assessment evidence is not available to be marked

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Loss or large scale damage to or destruction of completed examination scripts/assessment evidence before it can be marked

Centre actions:

- EO to communicate with awarding bodies immediately.
- Student marks to be submitted based on appropriate evidence.
- Candidates offered the opportunity to retake in subsequent series if applicable.

12. Centre unable to distribute results as normal

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- Centre is unable to access or manage the distribution of results to candidates, or to facilitate post-results services

Centre actions:

- EO and Head of Centre to assess alternative arrangements for issuing results with the regulators and awarding bodies.
- Head of Centre to inform students and parents about delay as soon as possible.

13. Students absent from exam

Criteria for implementation of the plan

- A member of P16 who has been entered for a GCSE resit does not turn up for a valid reason. This would include: medical reasons, family emergencies, extenuating circumstances or others deemed acceptable by the centre.

Centre actions:

- P16 team ring family of the student to determine location of the student and reason for absence.
- If reason does not meet criteria we would ask that the student would pay the fees for the missed exam.

