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Ethos Academy Trust

Emergency Evacuation 2024 - 2025



Nurturing inclusive learning communities



1	Summary	This policy details the procedures for an emergency evacuation during an examination.			
2	Responsible person	Head of Centre			
3	Accountable ELT member	Mandeep Bains			
4	Applies to	Ethos College			
5	Trustees and/or individuals who have overseen development of this policy	N/A			
6	Headteachers/Service Heads who were consulted and have given approval (if applicable)	Mandeep Bains			
8	Ratifying committee(s) and date of final approval	Head Teacher			
9	Version Number	1.3			
10	Available on	Every	Y/N	Trust Website Academy Website Staff Portal	Y/N Y/N Y/N
11	Related documents (if applicable)				
12	Disseminated to	Entire College			
13	Date of implementation (when shared)				
14	Date of next formal review	November 2025			
15	Consulted with Recognised Trade Unions	N/A			

Date	Version	Action	Summary of changes
19/09/2023	1.2	No Changes	
17/10/2024	1.3	Minor Change	Key staff changes/updated

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1. Key staff involved in the emergency evacuation policy/procedure

Role	Name(s)
CEO	Jayne Foster
Head of centre	Rebecca Smith, Mandeep Bains
Exams officer	David Connon
SLT member(s)	Diane Parkinson, Rich Billings
SENDCo	Lindsey Ellis

2. Purpose of the policy

This policy details how Ethos College deals with an emergency evacuation of the exam room(s) by defining staff roles and responsibilities and confirming the emergency evacuation procedure.

3. When is an emergency evacuation required?

An emergency evacuation is required where it is unsafe for candidates to remain in the exam room. This might include a fire in the exam room, the fire alarm sounding to warn of fire, bomb alert or other serious threat.

In exceptional situations, where candidates might be severely disadvantaged or distressed by remaining in the exam room, the emergency evacuation procedure may also need to be followed. This might include situations where there is severe disruption in the exam room, serious illness of a candidate or invigilator or similarly serious incidents.

As each incident may be different, advice will be sought from the relevant awarding body as soon as it is safe to do so, particularly where the centre is concerned about the security of the examination(s). (ICE 25.4)

Where candidates are unable to return to the building to complete the examination, the relevant awarding body will be contacted immediately for advice. The awarding bodies have procedures in place to ensure that candidates are not disadvantaged where they are unable to complete the examination due to circumstances beyond their control. (ICE 24.5)

4. Emergency evacuation of an exam room

Roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- ▶ Ensures the emergency evacuation policy for exams is fit for purpose and complies with relevant health and safety regulation
- ▶ Ensures any instructions from relevant local or national agencies are referenced and followed where applicable, including information from the National Counter Terrorism Security Office on the *Procedures for handling bomb threats*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bomb-threats-guidance/procedures-for-handling-bomb-threats>
Where safe to do so, ensures candidates are given the opportunity to sit exams for their published duration

Senior leaders

- ▶ Where responsible for the centre-wide emergency evacuation procedure, ensure all staff and appointed fire marshals are aware of the policy and procedures to be followed when an emergency evacuation of an exam room is required

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities coordinator (SENDCo)

- ▶ Ensures appropriate arrangements are in place for the emergency evacuation of a disabled candidate from an exam room where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for the candidate
- ▶ Ensures the candidate is informed prior to taking their exams of what will happen in the event of an emergency evacuation

Exams officer

- ▶ Ensures invigilators are trained in emergency evacuation procedures and how an incident and actions taken must be recorded (part of invigilator training)
- ▶ Ensures candidates are briefed via the Candidate Exam Handbook and teaching staff, prior to exams taking place, on what will happen in the event of an emergency in the exam room
- ▶ Provides invigilators with a copy of the emergency evacuation procedures for every exam room
- ▶ Provides a standard invigilator announcement for each exam room which includes appropriate instructions for candidates about emergency procedures and what will happen if the fire alarm sounds
- ▶ Provides an exam room incident log in each exam room
- ▶ Liaises with the SENDCo and other relevant staff prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate

- ▶ Briefs invigilators prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- ▶ Ensures appropriate follow-up is undertaken after an emergency evacuation, reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken through the *special consideration* process where applicable (in cases where a group of candidates have been disadvantaged by a particular event)

Invigilators

- ▶ By attending training and/or update sessions
- ▶ ensure they understand what to do in the event of an emergency in the exam room
- ▶ Follow the actions required in the emergency evacuation procedure issued to them for every exam room
- ▶ Confirm with the exams officer, where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate they are invigilating
- ▶ Record details on the exam room incident log to support follow-up reporting to the awarding body by the exams officer (see below)

Other relevant centre staff

- ▶ Support the senior leader, SENDCo, exams officer and invigilators in ensuring the safe emergency evacuation of exam rooms

Recording details

As soon as practically possible and safe to do so, details should be recorded on the exam room incident log.

Details must include:

- ▶ the actual time of the start of the interruption
- ▶ the actions taken
- ▶ the actual time the exam(s) resumed
- ▶ the actual finishing time(s) of the resumed exam(s)

Further details could include

- ▶ report on candidate behaviour throughout the interruption/evacuation
- ▶ a judgement on the impact on candidates after the interruption/evacuation



Nurturing inclusive learning communities

Emergency evacuation procedure for exams

<p>The invigilator must take the following action in an emergency such as fire alarm or bomb alert (as detailed in the current JCQ Instructions for conducting examinations section 25, <i>Emergencies</i>)</p>
<p>Stop the candidates from writing</p>
<p>Candidates must be advised to <u>close</u> their answer booklet</p> <p>Advise candidates to leave all question papers and scripts in the examination room</p>
<p>Collect the seating plan (on which attendance is marked) in order to ensure all candidates are present</p>
<p>Evacuate the examination room in line with the instructions given by the Fire Marshall</p>
<p>Candidates should leave the room in silence</p>
<p>Ensure that the candidates are supervised as closely as possible while they are out of the examination room to make sure there is no discussion about the examination</p>
<p>Make a note of the time of the interruption and how long it lasted.</p>
<p>Return to the examination room first (lead the candidates in to the exam room)</p>
<p>Allow the candidates the full working time set for the examination.</p>
<p>If there are only a few candidates, the possibility of taking the candidates (with question papers and scripts) to another place to finish the examination will be considered</p>
<p>Make a full report of the incident, start and end times, and of the action taken on the Incident Log.</p>