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Company Registration Number: 10745840 (England and Wales)

Ethos Academy Trust

# Complaints and Appeals

## 2025 - 2026

1	Summary	This policy details the complaints and appeals procedures for candidates (as set out by JCQ)			
2	Responsible person	Head of Centre			
3	Accountable ELT member	Mel Kilner			
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)	Mel Kilner			
8	Ratifying committee(s) and date of final approval	Head Teacher			
9	Version Number	1.6			
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 2026			
15	Consulted with Recognised Trade Unions	N/A			

Date	Version	Action	Summary of changes
19/09/2023	1.4		No Changes
17/10/2024	1.5		No Changes
25/11/2025	1.6	Minor Changes	Staff Changes

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## 1. Key staff involved in the complaints and appeals procedure

Role	Name(s)
CEO	Chris Davis
Head of centre	Mel Kilner
SLT members	Diane Parkinson, Rich Billings
Exams officer	David Connon

## 2. Purpose of the procedure

This procedure confirms Ethos College's compliance with JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres (section 5.8)* that the centre will *draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers/guardians their written complaints and appeals procedure which will cover general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification.*

## 3. Grounds for complaint

A candidate (or his/her/their parent/carer/guardian) may make a complaint on the grounds below (this is not an exhaustive list).

### Teaching and learning

- ▶ Quality of teaching and learning, for example
  - 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 exam candidate
- ▶ The taking of an assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not conducted according to the JCQ/awarding body instructions
- ▶ 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)
- ▶ Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure
- ▶ Candidate not informed of his/her/their centre assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- ▶ Candidate not informed of his/her/their centre assessed marks 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 centre assessed marks

### Access arrangements

- ▶ Candidate not assessed by the centre's appointed assessor

- ▶ Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding his/her/their access arrangements
- ▶ Candidate did not consent to personal data being shared electronically (by the non-acquisition of a signed data protection notice/candidate data personal consent form)
- ▶ Candidate not informed/adequately informed of the arrangements in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangements would not apply
- ▶ Exam information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it
- ▶ Adapted equipment put in place failed during exam/assessment
- ▶ Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment
- ▶ Appropriate arrangements not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment regarding consequence of a temporary injury or impairment

### Entries

- ▶ Failure to clearly explain a decision of early entry for a qualification to candidate (or parent/carer/guardian)
- ▶ Candidate not entered/entered late (incurring a late entry fee) for a required exam/assessment
- ▶ Candidate entered for a wrong exam/assessment
- ▶ Candidate entered for a wrong tier of entry

### Conducting examinations

- ▶ Failure to adequately brief candidate on exam timetable/exam regulations prior to exam/assessment taking place
- ▶ Room in which exam held did not provide candidate with appropriate conditions for taking the exam
- ▶ Inadequate invigilation in exam room
- ▶ Failure to conduct exam according to the regulations
- ▶ Online system failed during (on-screen) exam/assessment
- ▶ Disruption during exam/assessment
- ▶ Alleged, suspected or actual malpractice incident not investigated/reported
- ▶ Eligible application for special consideration for a candidate not submitted/not submitted to timescale
- ▶ Failure to inform/update candidate on the outcome of a special consideration application

### Results and Post-results

- ▶ Before exams, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the accessibility 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 decision on the submission of a review/enquiry
- ▶ Candidate request for return of work after moderation and work not available/disposed of earlier than allowed in the regulations

- ▶ Candidate (or parent/carer/guardian) unhappy with a result (complainant to refer via exams officer to awarding body *post-results services*)
- ▶ Candidate (or parent/carer/guardian) 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 via Exams Officer to the centre's *internal appeals procedure*)
- ▶ Centre applied for the wrong post-results service/for the wrong script for a candidate
- ▶ Centre missed awarding body deadline to apply for a post-results service
- ▶ Centre applied for a post-results service for candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission

## 4. Complaints and appeals procedure

- ▶ If a candidate (or his/her/their parent/carer/guardian) has a general concern or complaint about the Centre's delivery or administration of a qualification he/she/they is/are following, Ethos College encourages him/her/them to try to resolve this informally in the first instance. A concern or complaint should be made in person, by telephone or in writing to the head of centre.
- ▶ If a complaint fails to be resolved informally, the candidate (or his/her/their parent/carer/guardian) is then at liberty to make a formal complaint.

### How to make a formal complaint

- ▶ A formal complaint should be submitted in writing by completing a complaints and appeals form (delivery and administration of a qualification)
- ▶ Forms are available from the Exams Officer
- ▶ Completed forms should be returned to the Exams Officer
- ▶ Forms received will be logged by the centre and acknowledged within 5 working days

### How a formal complaint is investigated

- ▶ The head of centre 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 will be provided to the complainant within 2 working weeks

### Appeals

Following the outcome, if the complainant remains dissatisfied and believes there are clear grounds, an appeal can be submitted.

- ▶ Any appeal must be submitted in writing by again completing a complaints and appeals form (delivery and administration of a qualification)

- ▶ Forms received will be logged by the centre and acknowledged within 5 working days
- ▶ The appeal will be referred to the Board of Trustees for consideration
- ▶ The Board of Trustees will inform the appellant of the final conclusion within 4 working weeks

<b>Complaints and appeals form (delivery and administration of a qualification)</b>	<b>FOR CENTRE USE ONLY</b>	
	Date received.	
	Reference No.	
Please tick box to indicate the nature of your complaint/appeal <input type="checkbox"/> Complaint against the centre's delivery of a qualification <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal against the outcome decision of the complaint (centre delivery)  <input type="checkbox"/> Complaint against the centre's administration of a qualification <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal against the outcome decision of the complaint (centre administration)		
Name of complainant/appellant:		
Candidate name (if different):		
Please state the grounds for your complaint/appeal below (if necessary, continue on an additional page if this form is being completed electronically or overleaf if hard copy being completed)		
If your complaint is lengthy please write as bullet points; please keep to the point and include relevant detail such as dates, names etc. and provide any evidence you may have to support what you say Your appeal should identify the centre's failure to follow procedures as set out in the relevant policy, and/or issues in teaching and learning which have impacted the candidate.		
Detail any steps you have already taken to resolve the issue(s) and what you would consider to be a good resolution to the issue(s)		
Complainant/appellant signature: Date of signature:		
This form must be completed in full; an incomplete form will be returned to the complainant/appellant		



## Appendix B

### Complaints and appeals log

On receipt, all complaints/appeals are assigned a reference number and logged. Outcome and outcome date is also recorded.

Ref No.	Date received	Complaint or Appeal	Outcome	Outcome date

