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Ethos Academy Trust

Special consideration

2025 - 2026



Nurturing inclusive learning communities



1	Summary	This policy details the procedure for dealing with candidates with special consideration for an examination.			
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	1.4			
10	Available on	Every	Y	Trust Website Academy Website Staff Portal	Y Y N
11	Related documents (if applicable)	JCQ General regulations for approved centres			
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
20/09/2023	1.2	No Changes	
17/10/2024	1.3	No Changes	
25/11/25	1.4	Minor Changes	Staff Changes and links to policies

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This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that the special consideration process at Ethos College is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to GR, SC and ICE refer to the JCQ publications **General Regulations for Approved Centres, A guide to the special consideration process** and **Instructions for conducting examinations**

Introduction

Special consideration is given to a candidate who has temporarily experienced illness, injury or some other event outside of 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 or demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment. (SC 1)

Special consideration can go some way to assist a candidate affected by a potentially wide range of difficulties, emotional or physical, which may influence performance in their examinations. It cannot remove the difficulty faced by the candidate. This means that there will be some situations where candidates should not be entered for an examination. This is because only minor adjustments can be made to the mark awarded. To make larger adjustments would jeopardize the standard of the examination. (SC 1)

2. Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to identify roles and responsibilities in the special consideration process and confirms that Ethos College will *"submit any applications for special consideration where candidates meet the published criteria."*

[JCQ [General regulations for approved centres](#) section 5.9]

3. Eligibility for special consideration

3.1 Roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- Is familiar with the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication [SC](#)

- ▶ 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 [SC](#) 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

- ▶ 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

3.2 Applying for special consideration

Where eligible, special consideration will be applied for 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."* [[SC 2](#)]

For candidates who are present for the assessment but disadvantaged, Ethos College 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.

Some examples are provided below.

1. 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 supervision from the required time while appropriate arrangements are put in place for the candidate 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
2. Where candidates may be affected by a major disturbance in the exam room (emergency evacuation etc.), special consideration will be applied for on behalf of all candidates.
3. 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.
4. 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 for acceptable reasons, and the centre can support this, special consideration will be 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. If there is an opportunity to re-enter the candidate in the next available exam series, the centre will make the entry and special consideration will not be applied for

Where other issues or problems affect a candidate or a group of candidates, special consideration will be explored in [SC 5](#) and applied for where eligible. This might include, for example:

- ▶ other certification
- ▶ coursework/non-examination assessment extensions
- ▶ shortfall in work (coursework/non-examination assessment)
- ▶ lost or damaged work (non-examination assessment components)
- ▶ candidates taking an incorrect or defective question paper
- ▶ candidates undertaking the wrong controlled assessment or non-examination assessment assignment

Where a candidate may be eligible for special consideration (a post assessment adjustment) in a vocational qualification, the centre will follow [SC 7](#) and awarding body guidance to determine if, when and how an adjustment can be applied for.

4. Processing applications for special consideration

4.1 Roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- ▶ Ensures where a candidate may be a member of the family (which includes stepfamily, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friend and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) of a member of exams office staff, the application will be authorised by an alternative member of centre staff
- ▶ Ensures that all eligible applications will be supported by signed evidence produced by a member of the senior leadership team

Senior Leadership Team

- ▶ Produce signed evidence in support of all eligible applications

Exams officer

- ▶ Understands that special consideration must be applied for at the time of the assessment
- ▶ 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 of an application where this may be requested by an awarding body
- ▶ Meets the required deadline(s) for submitting applications

Teaching staff and/or SENDCo

- ▶ Provide any appropriate evidence or information that may be required to support a candidate's application for special consideration

Candidates (or parents/carers/guardians)

- ▶ Will be asked to provide any 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

4.2 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 [SC](#).

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

4.2.1 Timetabled written exams

- ▶ For 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 *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 [SC 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](#) *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 groups of candidates, applications will be made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts group applications or form 10 will be completed
- ▶ The paper [form 14](#) *Self certification form for candidates who have missed an examination* will only be completed by a candidate where circumstances warrant this and will not be used where the centre knows the candidate was ill

4.2.2 Internally assessed work

- ▶ Where appropriate, applications will be made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts them or form 10 will be completed and submitted to the awarding body
- ▶ Where a short extension to a deadline is being requested, the awarding body will be contacted directly
- ▶ Where an application relates to a shortfall in work, this will be submitted online or by completing form 10, dependent on the awarding body

4.2.3 Post assessment adjustments – vocational qualifications

- ▶ Where relevant and eligible, form 10 or form [VQ/SC](#) *Application for special consideration Vocational qualifications* will be completed and submitted to the awarding body

4.2.4 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.