



Public Examinations Complaints Policy

Sancton Wood School

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Centre name	Sancton Wood School
Centre number	22144
Date policy first created	03/04/2024
Current policy approved by	Richard Settle, Principal
Current policy reviewed by	Edward Batty, Head of Centre
Date of review	30/09/2025
Date of next review	30/09/2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Edward Batty
Senior leader(s)	Julia Cottam, Vice Principal (Academic) Richard Settle (Principal) Suzie Tall (Deputy Head - Senior School)
Exams officer	Ioana Bird
Other staff (if applicable)	Jane Stapleton, Exams Assistant Ingrid Tregoing, SENCo

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any complaints at Sancton Wood School are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements for complaints at Sancton Wood School and confirms compliance with JCQ's **General Regulations for Approved Centres** (5.3, 5.8) in drawing to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers our written complaints policy which covers general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification and our internal appeals procedure.

Grounds for complaint

A candidate (or their/parent/carers) at Sancton Wood School may make a complaint on the grounds below (This is not an exhaustive list).

Teaching and Learning

- Non-subject specialist teacher without adequate training/subject matter expertise utilised on a long-term basis
- 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 examination candidate
- The taking of an assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not conducted according to the JCQ/awarding body instructions
- Candidate not informed of their centre-assessed mark prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not informed of their centre-assessed mark 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 the centre-assessed mark
- Candidate unhappy with internal assessment decision (complainant to refer to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure

Additional grounds for complaint relating to teaching and learning:

Not applicable.

Access arrangements and special consideration

- Candidate not assessed by the centre's appointed assessor
- Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding their access arrangements
- Candidate was not informed that an application for access arrangements was to be processed using *Access arrangements online*, complying with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018
- Candidate not informed/adequately informed of the arrangement(s) in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangement(s) would not apply

- Examination information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it
- Adapted equipment/assistive technology put in place failed during examination/assessment
- Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an examination/assessment
- Appropriate arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an examination/assessment as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment
- Candidate unhappy with centre decision relating to access arrangements or special consideration (complainant to refer to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure

Additional grounds for complaint relating to access arrangements:

Not applicable

Entries

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

Additional grounds for complaint relating to examination entries:

Not applicable.

Conducting examinations

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

Additional grounds for complaint relating to the conducting of examinations:

Not applicable.

Results and Post-Results

- Before examinations, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the availability 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 a decision on the submission of a results 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) unhappy with a result (complainant to refer via exams officer to awarding body **post-results services**)
- Candidate (or parent/carer) 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 to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its 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 a candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission

Additional grounds for complaint relating to results and post-results:

Not applicable

Raising a concern/complaint

If a candidate (or parent/carer) has a general concern or complaint about the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification, Sancton Wood School encourages an informal resolution in the first instance.

This can be undertaken by:

- raising this concern with the Exams Officer or the Head of Centre in the form of a verbal conversation or an e-mail exchange

If a concern or complaint fails to be resolved informally, the candidate (or parent/carer) is then at liberty to make a formal complaint.

How to make a formal complaint

All documentation relating to the submission of a formal complaint is available from, and should be returned to:

- the Head of Centre and the Exams Officer

Formal complaints will be logged and acknowledged within:

- five working days during term time, and as soon as practicable during the holidays, indicating the action that is being taken and the likely time scale

To make a formal complaint, candidates (or parents/carers) must:

- provide full details of the complaint set out in writing and must sent with all relevant documents and full contact details

How a formal complaint is investigated

The Head of Centre will ask a senior member of staff to act as Investigator. The Investigator may request additional information from you and may wish to speak to you personally and to others who have knowledge of the circumstances. Written records will be kept of all meetings and interviews held in relation to the complaint. The Investigator will prepare a report on the investigation which will be considered by the Head of Centre.

The findings and conclusion of any investigation will be provided to the complainant within:

- 10 working days from the receipt of the formal complaint. Where there are exceptional circumstances resulting in a delay, the parents will be notified of this and informed of the new timescales as soon as possible

Internal appeals procedure

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

To submit an appeal, candidates (or parents/carers) must:

- request that the complaint be referred to the Complaints Panel. This must be requested in writing to the Exam Centre, for the attention of the Governing Body within five working days of the decision complained of. The request will usually only be considered if the informal and formal complaint procedures have been completed

Appeals will be logged and acknowledged within:

- five working days during term time, and as soon as practicable during the holidays, indicating the action that is being taken and the likely time scale

The appeal will be referred to:

- the Governing Body

It will be the responsibility of Head of Centre to inform the appellant of the final conclusion in accordance with the internal appeals procedure.

Additional details on the internal appeals process:

Changes 2025/2026

(update 01/10/2025)

(Removed/replaced) Under heading **Access arrangements and special consideration** removed reference to **candidate personal data consent form**/replaced with reference to complying with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018

Centre-specific changes