



Meridian Trust

Candidate Absence Policy

Candidate Absence Policy

Centre name (the Academy)	Northstowe Learning Community
Centre number	22238
Date policy first created	22/12/2023
Current policy approved by	Claire Mills
Current policy reviewed by	Claire Driver
Date of review	27/10/2025
Date of next review	31/12/2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Claire Mills
Senior leader(s)	Carl Deighton
Exams officer	Claire Driver
Other staff (if applicable)	House office support staff (SSA)

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that candidate absence from examinations at the Academy is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to ICE and SC refer to the JCQ documents **Instructions for conducting examinations** and **A guide to the special consideration process**.

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements for candidates who are absent from an examination at the Academy.

An absent candidate may subsequently arrive once the exam is underway, becoming a late or very late arrival, at which point the Academy reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow a candidate who arrives after the start of the examination to enter the examination room and sit the examination. (See **Candidate Late Arrival Policy**)

Based upon the circumstances for the absence, and subject to the required conditions being met, an application for special consideration may also be made to the relevant awarding body.

1. Identifying and dealing with candidate absence

A candidate will be considered absent from an examination if:

- The candidate is not present on completion of the attendance register once candidates are seated and have started the examination (ICE 22.5)

Once a candidate is identified as absent from an examination, the following action will be taken:

- The candidate will be contacted as to their whereabouts and as far as possible arrangements made to ensure their immediate arrival

If a candidate fails to sit an examination, the following action is taken:

- A confirmed candidate absence is clearly recorded on the attendance register which is sent to the examiner/marker
- The candidate absence is noted on the seating plan by crossing through the candidate details

2. Roles and responsibilities

Overview

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with candidate absence once it has been identified:

- Student Support Assistants for each house will contact home if they haven't already received communication from the family to explain the absence.

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with candidates who are persistently absent from examinations:

- Members of SLT

The role of invigilators

Invigilators will:

- Be informed of the process for dealing with absent candidates through training
- Ensure that absent candidates are clearly indicated on the attendance register (ICE 22.4)

Additional responsibilities:

The role of candidates

Candidates will be:

- attending all examinations they have been entered for. They will ensure they arrive at the centre prior to the start of the exam.
- Re-charged any relevant entry fees for unauthorised absence from examinations

Additional responsibilities:

ensure that the centre is informed as early as possible if they are going to be absent from an exam for an unavoidable reason.

3. Special consideration

At the Academy if a candidate is absent from a timetabled written examination for an acceptable reason, the candidate may be eligible for special consideration. This is where an adjustment may be made to the candidate's grade by the awarding body, providing the following conditions are met:

- The examination is in the candidate's terminal exam series (SC 4.2)
- The candidate has completed or will be able to complete the required percentage of the assessment to meet the minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence (SC 4.5)
- The application for special consideration can be supported by the centre with appropriate evidence authorised by a member of the senior leadership team (SC 6)

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with special consideration requests and applications:

- Exams Officer. Approved by HoC or Deputy HoC.

Changes 2025/2026

(Changed) Under heading **Special Consideration**:

Changed bullet point: The application for special consideration can be supported by appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team (SC 6) To: The application for special consideration can be supported by the centre with appropriate evidence authorised by a member of the senior leadership team (SC 6)

Centre-specific changes

Upon review in December 2025, no centre-specific updates or changes were applicable to this document.