



Meridian Trust

Food and Drink Policy (Exams)

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Centre name (the Academy)	Sawtry Village Academy
Centre number	22227
Date policy first created	22/12/2024
Current policy approved by	Simon Parsons
Current policy reviewed by	Joanne Scott David Bridgeman
Date of review	30/01/2026
Date of next review	30/12/2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Simon Parsons
Senior leader(s)	David Bridgeman Ashley Yeomans Michelle McCloskey Corinne Wheeler Thomas Hill
Exams officer	Joanne Scott
Other staff (if applicable)	Jade Cox, Exams Assistant

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that food and drink in the examination room at The Academy is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to ICE refer to the JCQ publication **Instructions for conducting examinations**.

Purpose of the policy

This policy confirms that The Academy reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow food and drink in the examination room, and confirms:

- the correct procedures are followed regarding food and drink in the examination room
- appropriate arrangements are in place for the management of food and drink in the examination room

1. Food and drink in the examination room

- Food and drink is allowed in the examination room at the discretion of the head of centre (ICE 18.4)

To enable invigilators to check these items quickly and efficiently:

- food brought into the examination room by the candidate must be free of packaging and in a transparent container
- drink bottles must be transparent with all labels removed which would include transparent, reusable plastic bottles (ICE 18.4)

The following arrangements are applied at The Academy:

Only clear, still drinks are allowed in the examination room.

Food or sugary drinks are not allowed unless there is a pre-approved medical reason.

2. Roles and responsibilities

The role of the exams office/officer

- Through briefings, ensure candidates are aware of the regulations, and centre-specific arrangements, relating to food and drink in the examination room
- Ensure invigilators are trained and aware of the regulations/centre-specific arrangements relating to food and drink in the examination room
- Escalate any issue or breach of centre-specific arrangements to the relevant senior leader for the application of internal sanction(s)
- Escalate any breach of JCQ regulations immediately to the head of centre (a breach of the regulations constitutes suspected or actual malpractice)

The role of the invigilator

- Be vigilant in the examination room and remain aware of incidents or emerging situations, looking out for malpractice (ICE 20.2)
- Record what has happened and actions taken on the exam room incident log in relation to any breach of regulations/centre-specific arrangements regarding food and drink in the examination room (ICE 20.2)

The role of the head of centre

- Report to the awarding body immediately all cases of suspected or actual malpractice in connection with the examination (ICE 24.3)

Changes 2025/2026

(Updated) Reference to ICE 18.2 updated to 18.4

Centre-specific changes

Upon review in Jan 2026, no centre-specific updates or changes were applicable to this document.