



Meridian Trust

Internal Appeals Procedure (Access arrangements, special consideration and other administrative issues)

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Centre name	Sawtry Village Academy
Centre number	22227
Date procedure first created	31/10/2024
Current procedure approved by	Simon Parsons
Current procedure reviewed by	Joanne Scott David Bridgeman
Date of review	31/10/2025
Date of next review	31/12/2026

Key staff involved in the procedure

Role	Name
Head of centre	Simon Parsons
Senior leader(s)	David Bridgeman Ashley Yeomans Michelle McCloskey Corinne Wheeler Thomas Hill Neil Wilson

Exams officer	Joanne Scott
SENCo (or equivalent role)	Ana Janjevak
Other staff (if applicable)	

This procedure is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that appeals against any decision at Sawtry Village Academy relating to access arrangements and special consideration or other administrative issues are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in this procedure to GR refers to the JCQ document General Regulations for Approved Centres. This procedure is also informed by the JCQ documents A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes (3), A guide to the special consideration process (1, 2, 6), Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (Importance of these regulations), GR (5.4) and Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures (3.3).

Purpose of the procedure

This procedure ensures compliance with JCQ regulations (GR 5.3) which state that centres must have in place for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually by a member of the senior leadership team and communicated within the centre, an internal appeals procedure which must cover at least appeals regarding... centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration.

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

The Academy will:

- comply with the principles and regulations governing access arrangements and reasonable adjustments as set out in the JCQ publication **Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments**
- ensure that all staff who manage and implement access arrangements and reasonable adjustments are aware of the requirements and are appropriately supported and resourced In accordance with the regulations, The Academy:
- recognises its duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, through the access arrangements process submit applications for reasonable adjustments and make reasonable adjustments to the service the centre provides to disabled candidates
- complies with its responsibilities in identifying, determining and implementing appropriate access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

Failure to comply with the regulations has the potential to constitute malpractice which may impact on a candidate's result(s).

Examples of failure to comply include:

- putting in place access arrangements/adjustments that are not approved
- failing to consider putting in place access arrangements (which may be a failure to comply with the duty to make reasonable adjustments)
- permitting access arrangements/adjustments within the centre which are not supported by appropriate evidence

- charging a fee for providing reasonable adjustments to disabled candidates

Special consideration

Special consideration is given to a candidate who is affected by adverse circumstances beyond 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 their normal level of attainment in an assessment.

The Academy will:

- comply with the requirements as set out in the JCQ publication **A guide to the special consideration process**
- ensure that all staff who manage and administer special consideration applications are aware of the requirements

Where The Academy has appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team to support an application, it will apply for special consideration at the time of the assessment for the affected candidate/candidates.

Centre decisions relating to access arrangements/reasonable adjustments and special consideration

This may include:

- a decision not to award/apply for a specific access arrangement/reasonable adjustment or to apply for special consideration, in circumstances where a candidate does not meet the criteria for, or there is no evidence/insufficient evidence to support the implementation of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment or the application of special consideration

Where The Academy makes a decision in relation to the access arrangement(s)/reasonable adjustment(s) or special consideration that apply for a candidate or candidates:

- If a candidate who is the subject of the relevant decision (or the candidate's parent/carer) disagrees with the decision made and reasonably believes that the centre has not complied with its responsibilities or followed due procedures, a written request setting out the grounds for appeal should be submitted
- An internal appeals form should be completed and submitted within 5 working days of the decision being made known to the appellant.

To determine the outcome of the appeal, the head of centre will consult the respective JCQ publication to confirm the centre has complied with the principles and regulations governing access arrangements/reasonable adjustments and/or special consideration and followed due procedures.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within 10 working days of the appeal being received and logged by the centre.

If the appeal is upheld, The Academy will

Proceed to implement the necessary arrangements/submit the necessary application.

Appeals regarding centre decisions relating to other administrative issues

Circumstances may arise that cause The Academy to make decisions on other administrative issues that may affect a candidate's examinations/assessments.

Where The Academy may make a decision that affects a candidate or candidates:

- If a candidate who is the subject of the relevant decision (or the candidate's parent/carer) disagrees with the decision made and reasonably believes that the centre has not complied with its responsibilities or followed due procedures, a written request setting out the grounds for appeal should be submitted

- An internal appeals form should be completed and submitted within 5 working days of the decision being made known to the appellant.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal within 10 working days of the appeal being received and logged by the centre.

Changes 2025/2026

(Amended) Wording under heading **Special consideration** slightly amended to reflect a change in *A guide to the special consideration process* in terms of appropriate evidence - amended 'signed by a member of the senior leadership team' to 'authorised by a member of the senior leadership team'.

Centre-specific changes

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

INTERNAL APPEALS FORM

Please tick box to indicate the nature of your appeal and complete all white boxes* on the form below

FOR CENTRE USE ONLY	
Date received	
Reference No.	

- ☐ Appeal against an internal assessment decision and/or request for a review of marking
- ☐ Appeal against a decision to reject candidate's work on the grounds of malpractice
- ☐ Appeal against the centre's decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal
- ☐ Appeal against the centre's decision relating to access arrangements or special consideration
- ☐ Appeal against the centre's decision relating to an administrative issue

*Where the nature of the appeal does not relate directly to an awarding body's specific qualification, indicate N/A in awarding body specific detail boxes

Name of appellant		Candidate name (if different to appellant)	
Awarding body		Exam paper code	
Qualification type Subject		Exam paper title	

Please state the grounds for your appeal below:

(If applicable, tick below)

- ☐ Where my appeal is against an internal assessment decision, I wish to request a review of the centre's marking
- If necessary, continue on an additional page if this form is being completed electronically or overleaf if hard copy being completed

Appellant signature:

Date of signature:

This form must be signed, dated and returned to the exams officer on behalf of the head of centre to the timescale indicated in the relevant appeals procedure

APPEALS LOG

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

The outcome of any review of the centre's marking will be made known to the head of centre. A written record of the review will be kept and logged as an appeal, so information can be easily made available to an awarding body upon request. The awarding body will be informed if the centre does not accept the outcome of a review – this will be noted on this log.

[illegible]

Further guidance to inform and implement appeals

JCQ publications

- General Regulations for Approved Centres <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/general-regulations>
- Post-Results Services <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/post-results-services>
- JCQ Appeals Booklet (A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes) <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/appeals>
- Notice to Centres – Informing candidates of their centre assessed marks <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/non-examination-assessments>
- Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/>
- Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance/>
- A guide to the special consideration process <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/access-arrangements-and-special-consideration/regulations-and-guidance/>

Ofqual publications

- GCSE (9 to 1) qualification-level conditions and requirements <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-qualification-level-conditions>
- GCE qualification-level conditions and requirements <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gce-qualification-level-conditions-and-requirements>