



Wisdom Service Hope

St Mary's & St John's CE School

Examination Contingency Plan

2020-2021

Statement of intent

The Examination Contingency Plan is in place to ensure a consistent and effective response in the event of major disruption to the examination system at St Mary's and St John's CE School.

St Mary's and St John's will implement this plan if serious interference to the examination system is experienced, affecting significant numbers of candidates across several awarding bodies, such as widespread illness, travel disruption, bad weather or power failures.

In the occurrence of such an event, any actions taken will be subject to the advice of the official agencies dealing with the specific circumstances being faced, for instance the police.

The priority when implementing this plan will be to maintain the following three principles:

- Deliver assessments to published timetables
- Deliver results to published timetables
- Comply with regulatory requirements in relation to assessment, marking and standards

1. Legal framework

- This policy has due regard to legislation in accordance with examination awarding bodies and the JCQ regulation section 5.3 General Regulations for Approved centres 2020/21
- This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school's Examination Policy
- All staff will ensure that they adhere to and implement the requirements of any equality legislation.

2. Responsibilities of the school

- It is the responsibility of St Mary's and St John's to communicate with pupils, parents and carers, ensuring that they are made aware of any issues that arise.
- The school is responsible for preparing all pupils for examinations.
- St Mary's and St John's will ensure that examinations and assessments are conducted under the conditions prescribed by awarding bodies.

- The school is responsible for liaising with awarding bodies in the event of an issue concerning examinations arising.
- St Mary's and St John's will offer a post results service and ensure that pupils are given the details of this service.
- It is the responsibility of the school to explore the opportunities for alternative arrangements if the centre cannot open for examinations, and the school will agree such arrangements with the relevant awarding bodies prior to the event.
- It is the responsibility of the Principal to appoint an appropriate examination officer within the school, whose role it is to organise and manage all examinations.
- St Mary's and St John's will ensure that the examination officer undertakes annual data collection exercises in order to collate information on qualifications.
- The Principal and examination officer will create an annual exam plan for the school, which identifies essential key tasks, dates and deadlines.
- It is St Mary's and St John's responsibility to ensure that assessment materials and candidates' work are stored under secure conditions.
- The examination officer is responsible for ensuring that the school's internal assessment marks and samples of candidates' work is submitted to awarding bodies, as well as external moderators.
- The SENCO is responsible for approving access arrangements and collating evidence to support the need for special requirements.

3. Absence of Examination Officer

- In the absence of the examination officer during peak examination periods, the necessary tasks will be undertaken by the senior leadership team (SLT) with the support of the lead invigilator Mrs J Taylor.
- The Examinations Officer holds the keys to the exam paper secure storage unit. Additional sets of keys are held by the Assistant Principal Mr S Payne and Deputy Heads Ms A Thomas & Mr G Davis
- SLT will appoint a 'deputy' to cover a role or task.
- Where cover for the role of examination officer is unavailable, the examination officer of another school can be approached to provide assistance.
- The school will endeavour to brief all candidates on exam timetables and the relevant awarding body's information.
- In the event that the examination officer experiences an extended absence at key points in the examination cycle, annual data collection exercises to collate information on qualifications will be undertaken by SLT.
- All assessment related procedures and tasks undertaken in the absence of the examination officer will be documented and be made readily available in order to ensure that all information held by the examination officer is kept up-to-date.

4. SENCo extended absence at key points in the exam cycle

- In the absence of the lead SENCo during key times in the examination cycle the SENCo of another school can be approached to provide assistance or a cover SENCo will be employed in the short term. This is to cover testing/assessment of candidates, administering access arrangement approval from the awarding body, organising centre delegated arrangements and staff training

5. Centre is unable to open

- In the event that St Mary's and St John's is unable to open as normal for scheduled examinations, the examinations officer will inform each awarding body which examinations are due to be taken as soon as possible.
- The Principal is ultimately responsible for deciding whether it is safe for the school to open.
- When considering whether the school will open as normal, the Principal will take advice, or follow instructions, from relevant local and national agencies.
- In the event that the school is unable to open, where possible, St Mary's and St John's will open for examinations and examination candidates only.
- In the event of a centre evacuation (or lock down) during exam time due to serious incident resulting in exam candidates being unable to start, proceed with or complete their exams the school will use alternative venues in agreement with relevant awarding bodies, such as using one of our other campuses (Bennett House or Neale House) or by sharing facilities with another school.
- Where possible, St Mary's and St John's will offer candidates an opportunity to sit any examinations missed at the next available exam series.
- In the event of partial or whole exam disruption, the school will apply to awarding bodies for special consideration for candidates who were affected by the disruption.
- Where possible, St Mary's and St John's will offer candidates an opportunity to sit any examinations missed at the next available series.

6. Disruption of teaching time/teaching staff extended absence

- € Where there is disruption to teaching time and students miss teaching and learning, it is St Mary's and St John's responsibility to ensure that pupils are prepared for the examinations as usual.
- € During the extended absence of teaching staff at key points in the exam cycle, the SLT will provide the examination officer with details of estimated and final entries for exams.

- € In the absence of the necessary teaching staff, the SLT will provide the examination officer with estimated grades and coursework marks, as well as ensuring that coursework samples are transmitted to moderators.
- € The examinations officer will communicate to candidates their centre assessed marks before marks are submitted to the awarding body to ensure that they are able to consider appealing internal assessment decisions and request a review of the centre's marking.
- € The school will communicate with parents, carers and pupils about the potential for disruption to teaching time and St Mary's and St John's plans to address this problem.
- € The teaching provision for pupils who will be facing examinations shortly will be priority.
- € Where appropriate, the school will advise pupils to sit examinations in the next available series.
- € During major disruption, St Mary's and St John's will strive to continue teaching all pupils, either through an alternative method of learning or at a different venue.

7. Distribution of examination papers

- € If there is disruption to the distribution of exam papers to test centres in advance of examinations, it is the examination officer's responsibility to communicate with awarding bodies to organise alternative delivery of exam papers.
- € The relevant awarding body will provide the school with electronic access to examination papers via a secure external network.
- € It is the responsibility of the examination officer to ensure that copies are received, collated and stored under secure conditions.
- € St Mary's and St John's will strive to ensure that students are able to proceed with taking examinations without having to reschedule examinations.

8. Candidate unable to take examination

- € When a pupil is unable to attend the school in order to complete an examination as normal, it is the responsibility of the school to communicate with the relevant awarding body to make them aware of the issue.
- € St Mary's and St John's will effectively and efficiently communicate with parents, carers and pupils regarding solutions to the problem.
- € St Mary's and St John's will utilise the school's own transport facilities in order to transport candidates who would otherwise be unable to attend the examination.
- € It is the examination officer's responsibility to liaise with pupils involved to identify whether the examination can be sat at an alternative venue, in agreement with the relevant awarding bodies.

- € Where appropriate, the examination officer will apply to awarding bodies for special consideration for pupils.
- € Pupils are only eligible for special consideration if they have been fully prepared, and have covered the whole course, but their performance during the examination is affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control.
- € If a pupil chooses not to sit an examination for other reasons, they should be aware that special consideration rules will not apply.
- € Latecomers will be permitted to take their examination, provided that they are within the awarding body's regulations.

9. Invigilators

- St Mary's and St John's will ensure that all invigilators who are being used are appropriately trained and suitable for the job.
- The examination officer will endeavour to confirm the full attendance of invigilators prior to the examination date.
- It is the examination officer's responsibility to maintain a panel of suitable invigilators which can be called upon in the event of a shortfall.
- Provisional timetables and estimated entry information will be used to determine the number of invigilators required.
- Where there is a shortage of invigilators, the examination officer and SLT team will cover any absences.
- It is the responsibility of the Principal to ensure that recruitment and training of invigilators is completed well in advance of examination dates.
- A review of available invigilators will be conducted prior to the examination period, in which invigilators' availability for the next exam series will be confirmed, allowing time for any amendments or training.

10. Examination room

- The examination officer will ensure that there are a sufficient number of rooms available during peak exam periods.
- It is the responsibility of the examination officer to ensure that all rooms utilised for examinations are appropriate, such as lack of noise, large enough to allow for a desk per pupil and IT facilities where necessary.
- Rooms will be suitably allocated and timetabled well in advance.
- The examination officer will ensure that appropriate rooms are arranged in advance for pupils sitting examinations who have special requirements and adjustments.
- Where necessary, pupils will be moved from normal classrooms to allow candidates to sit examinations in accordance with the timetable.

11. IT systems

- In the event that IT systems fail during peak examination periods, the relevant awarding bodies will be informed immediately.
- If systems fail at the final entry deadline, the relevant awarding bodies will be informed and an extension to the deadline will be requested. The examination officer will ensure that internal deadlines are set to help mitigate this from occurring.
- St Mary's and St John's will ensure that during the exam cycle there will be an ICT team on standby in order to repair systems in the event of failure or damage.
- Where a failure of IT systems results in serious disruption of the examination, special consideration can be applied for.
- In the event of IT systems failing during the distribution of candidate results, St Mary's and St John's will advise of alternative sites where results can be obtained.

12. Transportation of completed scripts

- If there is a delay in the normal collection and transportation arrangements for completed examination scripts via the national "yellow label" service, St Mary's and St John's will seek advice from the relevant awarding bodies and collection agencies.
- St Mary's and St John's will not make arrangements for the transportation of completed examination papers without the prior approval of the relevant awarding bodies.
- The school will ensure that completed examination papers are stored securely, with limited personnel access, until collection.
- In the event of disruption of the transportation of completed exam scripts, it is the responsibility of the examination officer to communicate continuously with the relevant awarding bodies throughout the incident, until the issue is appropriately resolved.
- St Mary's and St John's will always aim for scripts to be collected and delivered to awarding bodies without delay.

13. Assessment evidence is unavailable

- The following procedure should be followed in the event of large scale damage to, or destruction of, completed examination scripts or assessment evidence before it has been marked.
- It is the responsibility of the Principal to immediately inform the relevant awarding bodies of the issue.
- The Principal or examinations officer will discuss the possible courses of action with the pupil involved and their parent/carer.

- Where possible, the awarding body will generate candidate marks for the affected assessments based on other appropriate evidence of the candidate's achievement, such as other coursework.
- Whether evidence is classed as 'appropriate' is defined by the awarding body in consultation with the regulators.
- Where appropriate, the candidate will be given the opportunity to retake the assessment that has been affected at a subsequent assessment window.
- St Mary's and St John's will seek further advice from the relevant awarding body involved in the incident.

14. Distributing results

- € St Mary's and St John's is committed to ensuring that candidates receive their examination results in a timely manner.
- € St Mary's and St John's will make arrangements to access results at alternative premises in the event that the school is unable to access or manage the distribution of results to candidates such as using one of our other campuses (Bennett House or Neale House).
- € If the school is unable to open to distribute examination results, St Mary's and St John's will share facilities with other institutes, where possible.
- € The examination officer will contact awarding bodies regarding alternative arrangements for exam results in order to gain prior approval.
- € Where possible, St Mary's and St John's will provide pupils access to receiving results online.
- € St Mary's and St John's will make arrangements to make post results requests at an alternative location and will contact the relevant awarding organisation if electronic post results requests are not possible.