



FARNEY CLOSE SCHOOL

Examination Policy

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Farney Close School acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard, protect and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice. This knowledge has informed the writing of this policy.

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What is the purpose of this exams policy?

- to ensure the planning and management of exams is conducted efficiently and in the best interests of candidates.
- to ensure the operation of an efficient exams system with clear guidelines for all relevant staff.

It is the responsibility of everyone involved in the centre's exam processes to read, understand and implement this policy. The exams policy will be reviewed by the schools Vice Principal and the Exams Officer. Where references are made to JCQ regulations/guidelines, further details can be found at www.jcq.org.uk.

Which members of staff have designated responsibilities?

The Principal:

- Has overall responsibility for the school as an exam centre and advises on appeals and re-marks.
- Is responsible for reporting all suspected or actual incidents of malpractice - refer to the JCQ document.
- Suspected malpractice in examinations and assessments.

The Exams officer:

- Manages the administration of internal exams and external exams. Advises the senior leadership team, subject and class tutors, and other relevant support staff on annual exams timetables and procedures as set by the various awarding bodies.
- Oversees the production and distribution to all centre staff and candidates of an annual calendar for all exams in which candidates will be involved and communicates regularly with staff concerning imminent deadlines and events.
- Ensures that candidates and their parents/carers are informed of and understand those aspects of the exams timetable that will affect them.
- Checks with teaching staff that the necessary coursework and/or controlled assessments are completed on time and in accordance with JCQ guidelines.
- Provides and confirms detailed data on estimated entries.
- Maintains systems and processes to support the timely entry of candidates for their exams.

- Receives, checks and stores securely all exam papers and completed scripts and ensures that scripts are dispatched as per the guidelines.
- Administers Access arrangements and makes applications for special consideration following the regulations in the JCQ publications for Access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special consideration.
- Identifies and manages exam timetable clashes.
- Accounts for income and expenditures relating to all exam costs/charges.
- Ensures candidates' coursework / controlled assessment marks are submitted, and any other material required by the appropriate awarding bodies correctly and on schedule.
- Tracks, dispatches, and stores returned coursework / controlled assessments.
- Arranges for dissemination of exam results and certificates to candidates and forwards, in consultation with the Speech and Language Therapist, any post results service requests.

Key Stage Leads, Heads of department, Teachers and Instructors are responsible for:

- Supplying information on entries, coursework and controlled assessments as required by the Key Stage Leads, head of department and/or exams officer.
- Identification and testing of candidates' requirements for Access arrangements.
- Notifying the exams officer in good time so that they can process any necessary applications in order to gain approval (if required).
- Working with the exams officer to provide the Access arrangements required by candidates in exams rooms.
- Accurate completion of entry and all other mark sheets and adherence to deadlines as set by the exams officer.
- Accurate completion of coursework / controlled assessment mark sheets and declaration sheets.
- Guidance and pastoral oversight of candidates who are unsure about exams entries or amendments to entries.
- Decisions on post-results procedures.

Invigilators are responsible for:

- Assisting the exams officer in the efficient running of exams according to JCQ regulations.
- Collection of exam papers and other material from the exam office before the start of the exam.
- Collection of all exam papers in the correct order at the end of the exam and ensuring their return to the exam office.
- Supervision of all candidates under their responsibility during the examination.

Candidates are responsible for:

- Confirmation and signing.
- Understanding coursework / controlled assessment regulations and signing a declaration that authenticates the coursework as their own.
- Ensuring the conduct themselves in all exams according to the JCQ regulations.

What qualifications are offered?

The qualifications offered at this school are decided by the Principal, Vice Principal and Head of Education. The types of qualifications offered are GCSE, Entry Level, Functional skills and Pathways. Key Stage Leads, Subject heads, teachers or instructors to inform the exams office of any changes to a specification.

Decisions on whether a candidate should be entered for a particular subject will be taken by the Principal, Vice Principal and Head of Education in consultation with Key Stage Leads/Heads of Department/teacher/instructor.

What type of examinations will take place throughout the year?

Internal exams (mock or trial exams) and assessments are scheduled in the Autumn and Spring Term of every year.

External exams and assessments are scheduled in the summer term.

Internal exams are held under external exam conditions for Years 10 – 11 in the Autumn and Spring Term.

The Head of Education and Key Stage Leads/Heads of Department/teacher/instructor will decide which exams are used in the school.

When will exam timetables be published?

Once confirmed by the exam boards, the exams officer will circulate the exam timetables for internal and external exams at a specified date before each series begins. This will be around March, after mocks have taken place and the pupil entries have been confirmed.

How will exam entries, entry details and late entries be managed?

The school does not act as an exam centre for other organisations.

Entry deadlines are circulated to Key Stage Leads/heads of department/teacher/instructor via internal post.

Key Stage Leads, Heads of department and or teacher/instructor will provide estimated entry information to the exams officer to meet JCQ and awarding body deadlines.

Entries and amendments made after an awarding organisation's deadline (i.e. late) require the authorisation, in writing, of Vice Principal of Centre and Exams Officer.

Will candidates have to pay for exam entries?

Candidates or departments will not be charged for exams.

How will Equality Legislation affect examinations at the school?

All exam centre staff must ensure that they meet the requirements of any Equality legislation.

The centre will comply with the legislation, including making reasonable adjustments to the service that they provide candidates in accordance with requirements defined by the legislation, awarding bodies, and JCQ. This is the responsibility of the Vice Principal and Exams Officer.

What Access arrangements might be made?

The specialist teacher/SENCO will inform subject teachers/instructors of candidate's special arrangements that will need during the course and in any assessments/exams.

A candidate's Access arrangements requirement is determined by the dyslexia specialist in consultation with the Vice Principal.

Ensuring there is appropriate evidence for a candidate's Access arrangement is the responsibility of the Dyslexia specialist.

Submitting completed Access arrangement applications to the awarding bodies is the responsibility of the specialist teacher and Exams Officer.

Rooming for Access arrangement candidates will be arranged by the Exams Officer.

Invigilation and support for Access arrangement candidates, as defined in the JCQ Access arrangements regulations, will be organised by the Exams Officer.

How will estimated grades work?

Key Stage Leads, Head of Department and or teacher/instructor are responsible for submitting estimated grades to the relevant personnel when requested.

How will invigilation be managed?

External staff will not be used to invigilate examinations.

Internally trained invigilators will be used to invigilate examinations.

Invigilators are trained and briefed by the Exams Officer and SENCO yearly.

Additionally in house full and refresher training is completed for all staff bi-annually from the External Exams Office Training Team.

What are the arrangements for the evacuations from examinations in case of emergency?

If the fire alarm is sounded pupils will leave the examinations hall through the fire escape at the back of the hall. They will be kept separate from other pupils at the evacuation point and will not be permitted to have any conversation or contact with anyone. Once the drill is completed, they will return to the hall to complete their examination. If they are not able to complete the examination, then the papers will be collected and sent to the exam board with a full explanation of events and protocol. Times of evacuation are recorded, and pupils allocated any differences at the end.

How will malpractice be dealt with?

The Principal and/or Vice Principal in consultation with the Exams Officer are responsible for investigating suspected malpractice.

What will happen on exam days?

The exams officer will book all exam rooms after liaison with other users and make the question papers, other exam stationery, and materials available for the invigilator.

The Exams Officer will start and finish all exams in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Subject staff may be present at the start of the exam to assist with identification of candidates. Any staff present must be in accordance with the rules defined by JCQ concerning who is allowed and what they can do.

In practical exams, subject teachers'/instructors' availability will be in accordance with JCQ guidelines.

Exam papers must not be read by subject teachers/instructors' or removed from the exam room before the end of a session.

After an exam, the exams officer will arrange for the safe dispatch of completed examination scripts to awarding bodies, working in conjunction with school receptionist.

How will candidates be managed on exam days?

The exams officer will provide written information to candidates in advance of each exam. A formal briefing session for candidates may be given by the Key Stage Leads/ Head of Department/ teacher/instructor.

The centre's published rules on acceptable dress and behaviour apply at all times. Candidates' personal belongings remain their own responsibility and the centre accepts no liability for their loss or damage.

In an exam room the candidate must not have access to items other than those clearly allowed in the instructions on the question paper, the stationery list, or the specification for that subject. This is particularly true of mobile phones and other electronic communication or storage devices with text or digital facilities (this includes all watches. These must be handed to an invigilator before entering the exam room). Any precluded items must not be taken into an exam room.

Disruptive candidates are dealt with in accordance with JCQ guidelines. Candidates are expected to stay for the full exam time at the discretion of the Exams Officer. Note: candidates who leave an exam room must be always accompanied by an appropriate member of staff.

The Exams Officer is responsible for handling late or absent candidates on exam day.

What special consideration can be made?

Should a candidate be unable to attend an exam because of illness, suffer bereavement or other trauma, be ill or otherwise disadvantaged or disturbed during an exam, then it is the candidate's responsibility to alert the centre's Vice Principal and Exams Officer to that effect.

The candidate must support any special consideration claim with appropriate evidence within 7 days of the exam.

The exams officer will make a special consideration application to the relevant awarding body within 7 days of the exam.

How will internal assessments be managed?

It is the duty of Key Stage Leads/Heads of Department/teacher/instructor to ensure that all internal assessments are ready for dispatch at the correct time. The exams officer will assist by keeping a record of each dispatch, including the recipient details and the date and time sent.

Marks for all internally assessed work are provided to the exam's office by the Head of Subject. The exams officer will inform staff of the date when appeals against internal assessments must be made by. Any appeals will be dealt with in accordance with the

centre's Internal Appeals Procedure (IAP) document. Internally assessed work must be kept securely locked away until after the results/appeals processed has expired.

How will candidates be informed of their exam results?

Result slips will be posted out to candidates (via recorded delivery) on results day. Due to JCQ regulations, candidates are not allowed to receive results before 8am on this day, and it is therefore necessary to wait until Exam Results Day to send these results to ensure Exam Regulations are followed. They will therefore be received by Candidates, the following day.

As exam results are the legal property of the pupil, these results will be addressed to that person. Should there be a requirement to send these results to a third party, this must be requested in writing and accompanied by a letter of consent from the pupil themselves.

The results slip will be in the form of a centre produced individual results document downloaded from the awarding bodies.

The UK government is launching the [Education Record app](#) for summer 2026, allowing year 11 students in England to access GCSE results instantly on their phones. The app provides a secure digital record of results, speeds up college enrolment, and offers lifetime access to education data. It will be available alongside traditional in-person results. However, this is not mandatory for all pupils, with pupils allowed to Opt in, should they wish to assess their GCSE results using this app.

How can enquiries be made about results?

The cost of enquiries will be paid by the centre. All decisions on whether to make an application for an enquiry will be made by Principal and Vice Principal.

If a candidate's request for an enquiry is not supported, the candidate may appeal, and the centre will respond by following the process in its Internal Appeals Procedure (IAP) document.

All processing of enquiries will be the responsibility of the Key Stage Leads/Head of Department/teacher/instructor, Vice Principal and Exams Officer following the JCQ guidance.

Certificates

Candidates will receive their certificates posted (first class) proof of posting.

Certificates can be collected on behalf of a candidate by third parties, provided they have written authority from the candidate to do so and bring suitable identification with them that confirms who they are.

The centre retains certificates for 7 years.

A new certificate will not be issued by an awarding organisation. A transcript of results may be issued if a candidate agrees to pay the costs incurred. (This request must be made in writing and may take up to 30 days for the Exam Board to process).