Internal Appeals Procedure (Internal Assessment Decisions)

Centre name	**The Roundhill Academy**
Centre number	25327
Date policy reviewed	31 October 2026
Policy approved by	Natalie Teece
Policy reviewed by	Julia Rann
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Key staff involved in the policy

Role	**Names**
Head of Centre	Natalie Teece
SLT Member with responsibility for Exams	Julia Rann
Examinations Manager	Tania Taylor

This procedure is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that appeals against internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks) at The Roundhill Academy are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations in the JCQ publications **General Regulations for Approved Centres** (GR 5.3, 5.7), **Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments** ((4.6, 6.1, 9) and Instructions for conducting coursework (6, 7, 13). This procedure is also informed by the JCQ documents **Reviews of marking (centre assessed marks) suggested template for centres, Notice to Centres - Informing candidates of their centre assessed marks** and **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures** (3.3, 4.5).

To be read in conjunction with:

- AI Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Conflict of Interest
- Internal Appeals Procedure (Access arrangements, special considerations and other admin issues)
- Internal Appeals Procedure (Review of Results and Appeals)
- Malpractice Policy (Exams and Assessments)

Introduction

Certain qualifications contain components/units of non-examination assessment, controlled assessment and/or coursework which are internally assessed (marked) by centres and internally reviewed/standardised. The marks awarded (the internal assessment decisions) which contribute to the final grade of the qualification are then submitted by the deadline set by the awarding body for external moderation.

The moderation process carried out by the awarding body may result in a mark change, either upwards or downwards, even after an internal review. The internal review process is in place to ensure consistency of marking within the centre, whereas moderation by the awarding body ensures that centre marking is in line with national standards. The mark submitted to the awarding body is subject to change and should therefore be considered provisional.

The qualifications delivered at The Roundhill Academy containing components of non-examination assessment/units of coursework are: GCSE, OCR Cambridge Nationals, Pearson BTEC. See table of subjects at the end of the policy.

Purpose of the procedure

The purpose of this procedure is to confirm the arrangements at The Roundhill Academy for dealing with appeals relating to internal assessment decisions.

This procedure ensures compliance with JCQ regulations which state that centres must:

- have in place for inspection, that must be reviewed and updated annually, a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions (with reference to the JCQ document *A guide to the awarding organisations' appeals processes*) and to ensure that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates

- before submitting marks to the awarding body, inform candidates of their centre assessed marks and allow a candidate to request a review of the centre's marking

- draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers their written internal appeals procedure which will cover appeals regarding internal assessment decisions, access to post-results services and appeals, and centre decisions relating to access arrangements and special consideration

Principles relating to centre assessed marks

The head of centre/senior leader(s) at The Roundhill Academy will ensure that the following principles are in place in relation to marking the work of candidates:

- A commitment to ensuring that whenever teaching staff mark candidates' work, that this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the awarding body's specification and associated subject-specific documents

- All centre staff follow a robust policy regarding the management of non-examination assessments including controlled assessments and coursework which details the procedures

relating to relevant qualifications delivered in the centre, including the marking and quality assurance/internal standardisation processes which relevant teaching staff are required to follow

- Candidates' work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills, and who have been trained in this activity and do not have any potential conflicts of interest (If AI tools have been used to assist in the marking of candidates' work, they will not be the sole marker)

- A commitment to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body (where more than one subject teacher/tutor is involved in marking candidates' work, internal moderation and standardisation will ensure consistency of marking)

- On being informed of their centre assessed marks, if a candidate believes that the above procedures were not followed in relation to the marking of their work, or that the assessor has not properly applied the marking standards to the marking, then the candidate may make use of the appeals procedure below to consider whether to request a review of the centre's marking

Procedure for appealing internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)

The head of centre/senior leader(s) at The Roundhill Academy will:

- Ensure that candidates are informed of their centre-assessed marks so that they can request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body within a minimum of fourteen days' notice

- Inform candidates that they will need to explain on what grounds they wish to request a review of an internally assessed mark as a review will only focus on the quality of work submitted

- Inform candidates that they may request copies of materials (as a minimum, a copy of the marked assessment material (work) and the mark scheme or assessment criteria plus additional materials which may vary from subject to subject) to help them decide whether to request a review of the centre's marking of the assessment

- Having received a request for copies of materials, promptly make them available to the candidate (this will either be the originals viewed under supervised conditions or copies) within the period of time as specified (see **Deadlines** below)

- Inform candidates they will not be allowed access to original material, including artefacts, unless supervised

- Provide candidates with sufficient time to allow them to review copies of materials and reach a decision, informing candidates that if their decision is to request a review they will need to explain what they believe the issue to be

- Provide a clear deadline for candidates to submit a request for a review of the centre's marking and confirm understanding that requests must be made in writing and will not be accepted after this deadline (see **Deadlines** below)

- Require candidates to make requests for a review of centre marking by completing an internal appeals document

- Allow sufficient time for the review to be carried out, to make any necessary changes to marks and to inform the candidate of the outcome, all before the awarding body's deadline for the submission of marks (see **Deadlines** below)

- Ensure that the review of marking is conducted by an assessor who has appropriate competence, has had no previous involvement in the assessment of that candidate for the component in question and has no personal interest in the outcome of the review

- Instruct the reviewer to ensure that the candidate's mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre

- Inform the candidate in writing of the outcome of the review of the centre's marking

- Ensure the outcome of the review of the centre's marking is made known to the head of centre who will have the final decision if there is any disagreement on the mark to be submitted to the awarding body

- Ensure a written record of the review is kept and made available to the awarding body upon request

- Ensure the awarding body is informed if the centre does not accept the outcome of a review

Appeals against decisions to reject a candidate's work on the grounds of malpractice

The JCQ **Information for candidates' documents** (Coursework, Non-examination assessments, Social media) which are distributed to all candidates prior to assessments taking place, inform candidates of the things they must and must not do when they are completing their work.

The JCQ **Information for candidates**' documents **(AI (Artificial Intelligence and assessments),** coursework, non-examination assessments and social media) which are distributed to all candidates prior to relevant assessments taking place (and prior to a candidate signing the declaration of authentication which relates to their work), inform candidates of the things they must and must not do when they are completing their work.

The centre ensures that staff delivering/assessing coursework, internal assessments and/or non-examination assessments are aware of centre procedures relating to the authentication of learner work and have robust processes in place for identifying and reporting plagiarism (including AI misuse) and other potential candidate malpractice.

Candidate malpractice offences relating to the content of work (i.e. inappropriate/offensive content, copying/collusion, plagiarism (including AI misuse) and/or false declaration of authentication) which are discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment component prior to the candidate signing the declaration of authentication do not need to be reported to the awarding body but will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's internal procedures.

Malpractice by a candidate discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment where the offence does not relate to the content of candidates' work (e.g. possession of unauthorised materials, breach of assessment conditions) or where a candidate has signed the declaration of authentication, must be reported to the awarding body.

If there are doubts about the authenticity of the work of a candidate or irregularities are identified in a candidate's work before the candidate has signed the declaration of authentication/authentication statement (where required) and malpractice is suspected, The Roundhill Academy will:

Investigate the authenticity of the work including (but not limited to)

- Follow the authentication procedures and/or malpractice instructions in the relevant JCQ documents
- Interviewing the candidate with appropriate safeguarding measures in place
- Conducting an online search to establish a basis for malpractice
- Review IT logs
- Review internal submissions
- Compare work with candidate's previous work (conducted under similar circumstances where practicable)
- Review teaching materials (used in class and online)

Any investigations regarding malpractice of a candidate will be conducted by the Exams Manager, head of centre, or appropriate SLT member, who has no direct involvement with the malpractice case.

Candidate and parents/carers will be informed of any decisions made regarding malpractice as soon as the investigation concludes. If malpractice is found this will then be registered with the awarding body who will apply the appropriate sanctions.

If a candidate who is the subject of the decision disagrees with the decision:

- They can follow the appeals procedure as referenced above, setting out as clearly and concisely as possible the grounds for the appeal including any further evidence to support the appeal.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of the appeal:

- Within five working days of the appeal being received and logged by the centre.

Table of subjects this policy applies to:

Level	Subject	Awarding body	Specification code
GCSE	Art (Fine Art)	AQA	8202
GCSE	Art (Textiles)	AQA	8204
GCSE	Design and Technology	AQA	8552
GCSE	Drama	OCR	J316
GCSE	English Language (Spoken endorsement)	AQA	8700
GCSE	Food Preparation and Nutrition	AQA	8585
CNAT	Health and Social Care	OCR	J835
GCSE	Music	WJEC/EDUQAS	C660QS
GCSE	Physical Education	AQA	8582
BTEC	Sport	Pearson	CSP01
BTEC	Travel & Tourism	Pearson	CTT01

Deadlines and timescales

- Upon request, copies of materials will be made available to the candidate within five working days

- The deadline to request a review of marking must be made within five working days of the candidate receiving copies of the requested materials

- The process for completing the review, making any changes to marks, and informing the candidate of the outcome will be completed within five working days, all before the awarding body's deadline for the submission of marks