



St Ursula's Convent School

A Humanities College and Training School

Internal Appeals Procedures

2020/21

This plan is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Reviewed: November 2020

Reviewed by: C Hamilton, N Johnson & S Taylor

Next Review Date: November 2021

Key staff involved in internal appeals procedures

| Role | Name(s) |
|------------------|---|
| Head of centre | C Hamilton |
| Senior leader(s) | N Johnson K Adams M Kerr E Cahir A Cushnahann N Mandalos D Williams |
| Exams officer | S Taylor |

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Key staff involved in internal appeals procedures..... | 2 |
| 1. Appeals against internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)..... | 3 |
| 2. Appeals against the centre’s decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal | 5 |
| Further guidance to inform and implement appeals procedures | 9 |

1. Appeals against internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)

Certain GCSEs and other qualifications contain components of non-examination assessment (or units of coursework) which are internally assessed (marked) by St Ursula's Convent School and internally 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.

This procedure confirms St Ursula's Convent School's compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres 2020-2021 (section 5.7) that the centre will:

- have in place and be available for inspection purposes, a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions 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

St Ursula's Convent School is committed to ensuring that whenever its staff mark candidates' work this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the awarding body's specification and subject-specific associated documents.

St Ursula's Convent School ensures that all centre staff follow a robust *Non-examination Assessment Policy* (for the management of GCSE non-examination assessments). This policy details all procedures relating to non-examination assessments for GCSE and vocational qualifications delivered in school, including the marking and quality assurance processes which relevant teaching staff are required to follow.

Candidates' work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skill, and who have been trained in this activity. St Ursula's Convent School is committed to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body. Where a number of subject teachers are 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 his/her work, or that the assessor has not properly applied the mark scheme to his/her marking, then he/she may make use of the appeals procedure below to consider whether to request a review of the centre's marking.

St Ursula's Convent School will

1. ensure that candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks so that they may request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body
2. 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 their work in meeting the published assessment criteria
3. inform candidates that they may request copies of materials (for example, a copy their marked assessment material (work) and the mark scheme or assessment criteria plus additional materials which may vary from subject to subject) to assist them in considering whether to request a review of the centre's marking of the assessment
4. having received a request for copies of materials, promptly make them available to the candidate (or for some marked assessment materials, such as art work and recordings, inform the candidate that these will be shared under supervised conditions) within 3 school days
5. inform candidates they will not be allowed access to original assessment material unless supervised

6. provide candidates with sufficient time in order 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
7. provide a clear deadline for candidates to submit a request for a review of the centre's marking. Requests will not be accepted after this deadline. Requests must be made in writing by completing the internal appeals form in Appendix A by the deadline. An editable version of Appendix A is available on request to allow this form to be submitted electronically.
8. allow 10 school days 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
9. ensure that the review of marking is carried out by an assessor who has appropriate competence, has had no previous involvement in the assessment of that candidate and has no personal interest in the review
10. instruct the reviewer to ensure that the candidate's mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre
11. inform the candidate in writing of the outcome of the review of the centre's marking

The outcome of the review of the centre's marking will be 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. A written record of the review will be kept and made available to the awarding body upon request.

The awarding body will be informed if the centre does not accept the outcome of a review.

The moderation process carried out by the awarding bodies 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.

On receipt of a request for a review of the centre's marking (using the internal appeals form), all requests for a review are logged on a spreadsheet maintained by the Examinations Officer. The outcome and outcome date are also recorded. 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.

This procedure is informed by the JCQ publications [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments \(6.1\)](#), [Reviews of marking \(centre assessed marks\) suggested template for centres](#), and [Notice to Centres -Informing candidates of their centre assessed marks](#)

2. Appeals against the centre's decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal

This procedure confirms St Ursula's Convent School compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres 2020-2021 (section 5.13) that the centre will have available for inspection purposes and draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers, a written internal appeals procedure to manage disputes when a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal.

Following the issue of results, awarding bodies make post-results services available. Candidates are informed in writing, on results day, of who they must contact, any internal school deadlines, and any fees charged, if they wish to request a post results service from the awarding body.

Candidates are also informed of the arrangements for post-results services and the availability of senior members of centre staff immediately after the publication of results, **before** they sit any exams in the school's Candidate Exam Handbook.

If the centre or a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) has a concern and believes a result may not be accurate, post-results services may be considered. The JCQ post-results services currently available are detailed below.

Reviews of Results (RoRs):

- **Service 1 - clerical re-check** (this is the only service available for objective/multiple choice tests)
- **Service 2 - review of marking**
- **Service 3 - review of moderation** (this service is not available to an individual candidate)

Access to Scripts (ATS):

- Copies of scripts to support reviews of marking
- Copies of scripts to support teaching and learning

Where a concern is expressed that a particular result may not be accurate, the centre (the Head of Department and/or a member of the Senior Leadership Team) will look at the marks awarded for each component part of the qualification alongside any mark schemes, relevant result reports, grade boundary information, copies of scripts etc. when made available by the awarding body to determine if the centre supports any concerns made by the parent/carer/candidate.

This concern must be made in writing to exams@stursulas.com by either the parent/carer or the candidate. If made solely by the parent/carer then informed **written candidate consent must be sought alongside this concern.**

For written components that contributed to the final result, the centre will:

1. Review this concern using the evidence available from the awarding body. There may be a cost to the parent/carer/candidate to access a copy of exam papers as part of this process (as per the different arrangements in place from each awarding body)
2. Support a request for the appropriate RoR service (clerical re-check or review of marking) if any error is identified
3. Collect informed **written consent from the candidate** to request the RoR service before the request is submitted (informed consent via candidate email is acceptable)
4. Receive any costs associated with requesting a RoR service from the parent/carer/candidate (as per the different fees charged by each awarding body) before this request is made. Awarding bodies will refund fees where a RoR service leads to a change in grade.
5. Where relevant, advise an affected candidate to inform any third party (such as a sixth form or college) that a review of marking has been submitted to an awarding body)

Written **candidate consent** (informed consent via candidate email is acceptable) is required in all cases before a request for a RoR service 1 or 2 (including priority service 2) is submitted to the awarding body. Consent is required to confirm the candidate understands that the final subject grade and/or mark awarded following a clerical re-check or a review of marking, and any subsequent appeal, **may be lower than, higher than, or the same as** the result which was originally awarded. Candidates will be provided with a consent form, which includes awarding body RoR fees, and consent will only be collected **after** the publication of results.

For any moderated components that contributed to the final result, the centre will:

- Confirm that a review of moderation cannot be undertaken on the work of an individual candidate or the work of candidates not in the original sample submitted for moderation
- Consult the moderator's report/feedback to identify any issues raised
- Determine if the centre's internally assessed marks have been accepted without change by the awarding body – if this is the case, a RoR service 3 (Review of moderation) will not be available
- Determine if there are any grounds to submit a request for a review of moderation for the work of all candidates in the original sample.

Where a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking or a review of moderation, the centre will:

- For a review of marking (RoR priority service 2), advise the candidate they may request the review by providing informed written consent (and the required fee) for this service to the centre by the deadline set by the centre
- For a review of marking (RoR service 1 or 2), advise the candidate that they can access a copy of their script to support a review of marking by providing written permission for the centre to access the script (and any required fee for this service) for the centre to submit this request
- After accessing the script to consider the marking, inform the candidate that if a request for a review of marking (RoR service 1 or 2) is required, this must be submitted by the deadline set by the centre by providing informed written consent (and the required fee for this service) for the centre to submit this request
- Inform the candidate that a review of moderation (RoR service 3) cannot be requested for the work of an individual candidate or the work of a candidate not in the original sample.

If the candidate (or their parent/carer) believes there are grounds to appeal against the centre's decision not to support a review of results, an internal appeal can be submitted to the centre by completing the internal appeals form (Appendix A) at least 5 school days prior to St Ursula's Convent School's internal deadline for submitting a request for a review of results.

If these deadlines are adhered to, the appellant will be informed of the outcome of his/her appeal at least 2 school days prior to the internal deadline for submitting a RoR.

On receipt (using the internal appeals form), all internal appeals relating to exam are logged on a spreadsheet maintained by the Examinations Officer. The outcome and outcome date are also recorded. The awarding body will be informed if the centre does not accept the outcome of a review – this will also be recorded on the log.

Where a centre disagrees with the awarding body outcome of a clerical re-check, a review of marking or a review of moderation:

- A preliminary external appeals process is available if the Head of Centre remains dissatisfied with the outcome and believes there are grounds for appeal. The JCQ publications Post-Results Services and JCQ Appeals Booklet (A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes) will be consulted to determine the acceptable grounds for a preliminary appeal.

- Awarding body fees which may be charged for the preliminary appeal must be paid to the centre by the appellant before the preliminary appeal is submitted to the awarding body (fees are available from the exams officer). If the appeal is upheld by the awarding body, this fee will be refunded by the awarding body and repaid to the appellant by the centre.

Where the Head of Centre is satisfied after receiving the RoR outcome, but the candidate/parent/carer disagrees with a centre decision not to support a preliminary external appeal to the awarding body:

- A further internal appeal may be made to the Head of Centre. The internal appeals form (Appendix A) should be completed and submitted to the centre within 5 school days of the notification of the outcome of the RoR.
- Following this, the Head of Centre's decision as to whether to proceed with a preliminary appeal will be based upon the acceptable grounds as detailed in the JCQ Appeals Booklet.
- Subject to the Head of Centre's decision, this will allow the centre to process the preliminary appeal and submit to the awarding body within the required **30 calendar days** of receiving the outcome of the review of results process.
- Awarding body fees which may be charged for the preliminary appeal must be paid to the centre by the appellant before the preliminary appeal is submitted to the awarding body (fees are available from the exams officer). If the appeal is upheld by the awarding body, this fee will be refunded by the awarding body and repaid to the appellant by the centre.
- Candidates or parents/carers are not permitted to make direct representations to an awarding body.



APPENDIX A: Internal appeals form

| FOR CENTRE USE ONLY | |
|---------------------|--|
| Date received | |
| Reference No. | |

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

1. Appeal against an internal assessment decision and/or request for a review of marking
2. Appeal against the centre's decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Name of appellant | | Candidate name (if different to appellant) | |
| Awarding body | | Exam paper code | |
| Subject | | Exam paper title | |
| Please state the grounds for your appeal below | | | |
| <p><i>(If applicable, tick below)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Where my appeal is against an internal assessment decision I wish to request a review of the centre's marking</p> <p><i>If necessary continue on an additional page if this form is being completed electronically or overleaf if hard copy being completed</i></p> | | | |
| Appellant signature: | | Date of signature: | |
| Date of Review of work: | | | |
| Signature to confirm that work was reviewed under secure conditions: | | | |
| Name of Reviewer: | | | |
| Reviewers comments: | | | |
| | | | |
| Date Closed: | | | |
| Student Notified: | | | |

If appealing against an internal centre assessed mark, this form must be signed, dated and returned to the Examinations Officer, before the review deadline set by each department. If appealing against a centre's decision not to support a post-results service, this form must be signed, dated and returned to the Examinations Officer, before the school's internal deadline as detailed on the letter provided to candidates on GCSE results day.

Additional Notes for a Review of Marking of Centre Assessed Marks

- An appeal for a Review of Centre Assessed Marks must clearly indicate the grounds for the appeal.
- Appeals can only be made on the basis of application of the mark scheme or failure to adhere to JCQ or awarding body regulations.
- The mark scheme is accessible on the relevant subject area of the awarding body website.
- The form must be received by the Exams Officer by the relevant deadline(s).
- If a candidate wishes to review their work before submitting an appeal then the section detailing grounds should not be completed. The form will be returned following access to the work to allow the candidate to proceed if they still wish.
- Access to work will be supervised at all times, in school, under secure conditions, and a copy of the mark scheme will be made available.

Further guidance to inform and implement appeals procedures

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
<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>

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>