

Bath Academy Equalities Policy (Exams) 2020-2021



Purpose of the policy

This document is provided as an exams-specific supplement to the *centre-wide equalities/disability/accessibility policy/plan* which details how the centre will:

- recognise its duties towards disabled candidates, including private candidates, as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010†. This must include a 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; †or any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect
JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres 2020-2021 (section 5.4)

This publication is further referred to in this policy as [GR](#).

This policy details how the centre facilitates access to exams and assessments for disabled candidates, as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, by outlining staff roles and responsibilities in relation to:

- identifying the need for appropriate arrangements, reasonable adjustments and/or adaptations (referred to in this policy as 'access arrangements')
- requesting access arrangements
- implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams
- good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability

A definition is provided on page 4 of the JCQ publication *Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2020-2021* (**Definitions** section).

This publication is further referred to in this policy as [AA](#).

Review Period	Staff	Date Current Policy
Annually	Vice Principal, SENCo & EO	Sept 2020

Signed: Vice Principal (Academic) Date:

Signed: SENCo Date:

Signed: Exam Officer Date:

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name(s)
SENCo	Mrs Penny McGee
SENCo line manager (Senior Leader)	Mr Liam Hocking (Vice Principal-Academic)
Head of centre	Mr Tim Naylor
Assessor(s)	Mrs Penny McGee
Access arrangement facilitator(s)	Mrs Jan Whittaker (Exams Officer)
Site Manager	Mr Martin Lees
IT Manager	MR Philip Becker

Contents

Key staff involved in the policy	2
Implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams	1
Purpose of the policy	1
The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability	1
Identifying the need for access arrangements	2
Roles and responsibilities	2
Use of word processors	3
Requesting access arrangements	4
Roles and responsibilities	4
Implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams	5
Roles and responsibilities	5
External assessments	5
Internal assessments	7
Facilitating access - examples	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Identifying the need for access arrangements

Roles and responsibilities

Principal/Head of centre

- Is familiar with the entire contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publications including [GR](#) and [AA](#)
- Ensures an appropriately qualified assessor(s) is appointed, evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) is obtained before he/she assesses candidates and that evidence of the qualification(s) of the person(s) appointed is held on file

Vice Principal (Academic)

- Are familiar with the entire contents of the annually updated JCQ publications including [GR](#) and [AA](#)
- Ensures staff roles, responsibilities and processes in identifying, requesting and implementing access arrangements for candidates (including private candidates) are clearly defined and documented
- Ensures a policy demonstrating the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place

Special educational needs coordinator (SENCo)

- Has full knowledge and understanding of the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication [AA](#)
- Ensures the quality of the access arrangements process within the centre
- Ensures the assessment process is administered in accordance with the regulations and that the correct procedures are followed as per Chapter 7 of [AA](#)
- Ensures the need for access arrangements for a candidate is considered on a subject by subject basis
- Leads on the access arrangements process to facilitate access for candidates
- Defines and documents roles, responsibilities and processes in identifying, requesting and implementing access arrangements (*Access arrangements policy*)
- Ensures that all assessments carried out and arrangements put in place comply with JCQ and awarding body regulations and guidance
- Ensures arrangements put in place for exams/assessments reflect a candidate's *normal way of working* within the centre
- Presents when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector, evidence of the assessor's qualification

Teaching staff

- Inform the SENCo of any support that might be needed by a candidate

Exams Officer

- Supports the SENCo in determining the need for and implementing access arrangements
- Provides a policy on the use of word processors in exams and assessments
- Works with SENCo and teaching staff to ensure centre-delegated and awarding body approved access arrangements are put in place for candidates taking internal and external exams/assessments

Assessor of candidates with learning difficulties

An assessor of candidates with learning difficulties will be an appropriately qualified access arrangements assessor/psychologist/specialist assessor), currently this role is undertaken by the SENCo

- Has detailed understanding of the JCQ publication [AA](#)
- Provide information to evidence the normal way of working of a candidate
- Conducts appropriate assessments to identify the need(s) of a candidate
- Provides appropriate evidence to confirm the need(s) of a candidate
- Completes appropriate documentation as required by the regulations of JCQ and the awarding body

Use of word processors

Bath Academy's Word Processor Policy (Exams) can be accessed on BA Intranet: S Drive: Exam Officer/Policies/BA

There is also a signed hardcopy kept in the Exams Policies File, stored in the exam office ground floor, Chapel Row Building

A centre must have a policy on the use of word processors... A member of the centre's senior leadership team must produce a statement for inspection purposes which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations. (AA 5.8)

Requesting access arrangements

Roles and responsibilities

SENCo

- Determines if the arrangements identified for a candidate require prior approval from the awarding body before the arrangements are put in place or if approval is centre-delegated
- Follows guidance in AA (chapter 8) to process approval applications for access arrangements for those qualifications covered by JCQ/CIE regulations
- Applies for approval where this is required, through Access arrangements online (AAO), or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO e.g. CIE
- Ensures appropriate and required evidence is held on file to confirm validation responses in AAO including (where required) the completion of JCQ Form 8 (Application for access arrangements – Profile of learning difficulties), and/or centre based evidence including concise file note(s) on centre headed paper, signed and dated, and a body of evidence to substantiate the candidate's normal way of working within the centre (Form 8 must only be used for candidates with learning difficulties who are not subject to a current EHCP or Statement of Special Educational Needs or those requiring a Language Modifier.)
- Ensures where form 8 is required to be completed, the form is signed (a handwritten, electronic or typed signature is acceptable) and dated as required **prior** to approval being sought and that the form is provided for processing and inspection purposes (This may be a hard copy paper version or an electronic version)
- Ensures the names of all other assessors, who are assessing candidates studying qualifications covered by AAO are entered into AAO to confirm their status including any professionals working outside the centre
- Confirms by ticking the 'Confirmation' box prior to submitting the application for approval that the 'malpractice consequence statement' has been read and accepted
- Makes an *awarding body referral* through AAO where the initial application for approval may not be approved by AAO, where it is deemed by the centre that the candidate does meet the criteria for the arrangement(s)
- Ensures that arrangements, and approval where required, are in place before a candidate takes his/her first exam or assessment (which is externally assessed or internally assessed/externally moderated)
- Ensures that where approval is required that this is processed at the start of the course and at the latest by the awarding body deadline

Maintains a file/e-folder for each candidate (the required documentation for a candidate will either be all in hard copy within the candidate's file **or** all in electronic format within the candidate's e-folder) that will include:

- completed JCQ/awarding body application forms and evidence forms
 - appropriate evidence to support the need for the arrangement where required
 - appropriate evidence to support normal way of working within the centre
 - in addition, for those qualifications covered by AAO (where approval is required), a print out/PDF of the AAO approval and a signed candidate personal data consent form (which provides candidate consent to their personal details being shared)
- Presents the files/e-folders when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and addresses any queries/questions raised

Exams Officer (EO)

- Is familiar with the entire contents of the annually updated JCQ publication [GR](#) and is aware of information contained in [AA](#) where this may be relevant to the EO role
- Liaises with SENCo & teaching staff regarding any appropriate modified paper requirements for candidates
- Liaises with the SENCo to ensure arrangements are in place to either order a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper or to open question paper packets in the secure room within 90 minutes of the published starting time for the exam where the centre is permitted to modify a timetabled written component exam paper (copy on coloured paper, enlarge to A3 or copy to single sided print)
- Following the appropriate process (using AAO for those qualifications included in the tool; using Form VQ/EA), orders published modified papers, by the awarding body's deadline for the exam series, where these may be required for a candidate

Vice Principal (Academic)

- If the SENCo is unavailable, presents the files/e-folders of access arrangements candidates when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and addresses any queries/questions raised

Implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams

Roles and responsibilities

External assessments

These are assessments which are normally set and marked/examined by an awarding body which must be conducted according to awarding body instructions and/or the JCQ publication [Instructions for conducting examinations](#) (ICE).

Principal/Head of centre

- Supports the SENCo, the exams officer and other relevant centre staff in ensuring appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams

Vice Principal (Academic)

- Supports the SENCo and the exams officer to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Ensures the centre's emergency evacuation procedures and any additional arrangements, that may need to be in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance when an exam room is evacuated, are in place

SENCo

- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for candidates where they are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act (unless a temporary emergency arrangement is required at the time of an exam)
- Is familiar with the instructions for Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements and Access arrangements in [ICE 2020-2021](#)
- Ensures a candidate is involved in any decisions about arrangements, adjustments and/or adaptations that may be put in place for him/her and ensures the candidate understands what will happen at exam time
- Ensures exam information (JCQ information for candidates documents, individual exam timetable etc.) is adapted where this may be required for a disabled candidate to access it
- Ensures that prior to any arrangements being put in place checks are made that arrangements do not impact on any assessment criteria/competence standards being tested
- Ensures that any arrangements put in place do not unfairly disadvantage or advantage disabled candidates

- Liaises with EO to monitor, in internal tests/mock exams, the use of arrangements granted to a candidate and where a candidate has never made use of the arrangement, may consider withdrawing the arrangement, provided the candidate will not be placed at a substantial disadvantage
- Liaises with the exams officer (EO) regarding facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates in exams
- Liaises with other relevant centre staff regarding the provision of appropriate rooming and equipment that may be required to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Liaises with EO to appoint appropriate centre staff as facilitators to support candidates (practical assistant, prompter, Language Modifier, reader, scribe or Communication Professional)
- Liaises with EO to ensure facilitators supporting candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular access arrangement(s)
- Liaise with EO to ensure a record of the content of training given to those facilitating an access arrangement for a candidate under examination conditions is kept and retained on file until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
- Liaises with EO to ensure a facilitator acting as a prompter is aware of the appropriate way to prompt depending on the needs of the candidate
- Liaises with the EO to ensure that invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues
- Liaises with the EO where a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of exams

Exams Officer

- Understands and follows instructions for Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements and Access arrangements in ICE 2020-2021
- Ensures where the candidate's own subject teacher will be used (in exceptional circumstances) as a facilitator, an invigilator will be present at all times
- Ensures where a facilitator is allocated to support a candidate under exam conditions that they will not be a relative, friend, peer or private tutor of the candidate
- Liaises with SENCo to ensure the facilitator is known by or introduced to the candidate prior to exams
- Ensures a facilitator acting as a prompter will not normally be the candidate's own subject teacher and must not be a relative, friend or peer of the candidate (understanding that a private tutor cannot act as a prompter for the candidate)
- Ensures invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates are trained in their role and understand the invigilation arrangements required for access arrangement candidates and the role of any facilitator
- Ensures cover sheets, where these are required by the arrangement are completed as required by facilitators
- Liaises with the SENCo to ensure exam information (JCQ information for candidates documents, individual exam timetable etc.) is adapted where this may be required for a disabled candidate to access it
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with the SENCo to ensure that invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues
- Ensures appropriate seating arrangements are in place where different arrangements may need to be made for a candidate to facilitate access to his/her exams
- Ensures candidates with access arrangements are identified on exam room seating plans and invigilators are made aware of the arrangements awarded and invigilators informed of those candidates with access arrangements and made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded
- Ensures invigilators are briefed prior to each exam session of the arrangements in place for a disabled candidate in their exam room

- Checks in advance of dated exams/assessments that modified paper orders have arrived (and if not will contact the awarding body to ensure that papers are available when required)
- Makes modifications that are permitted by the centre (a question paper copied onto coloured paper, an A4 to A3 enlarged paper or a paper printed on single sheets or where a question paper may need to be scanned into PDF format where a candidate is approved the use of a computer reader) that may be required and either accesses a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper or opens the exam question paper packet in the secure room no earlier than 90 minutes prior to the awarding body's published start time of the exam
- Understands that where permitted/approved, secure exam question paper packets may need to be opened early so the facilitator (Language Modifier, Live Speaker, Communication Professional **only**) may have access to the question paper 60 minutes prior to the awarding body's published starting time for the exam in order to prepare
- Provides cover sheets prior to the start of an exam where required for particular access arrangements and ensures that these have been fully completed before candidates' scripts are dispatched to examiners/markers
 - prints pre-populated cover sheets from AAO where this is required for particular arrangements
- Has a process in place to deal with emergency (temporary) access arrangements as they arise at the time of exams in terms of rooming and invigilation
- Liaises with the SENCo where a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of exams
- Where required for emergency (temporary) access arrangements, applies for approval through AAO or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

Site Manager

- Liaises with the SENCo and other relevant centre staff to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Ensures rooms and non-specialist equipment (chairs, tables, clocks etc.) used for exams that are adapted for a disabled candidate where necessary

IT Manager

- Ensures IT equipment is in good working order for candidates that require laptops or other IT equipment

Internal assessments

These are non-examination assessments (NEA) which are normally set by a centre/awarding body, marked and internally moderated by the centre and externally moderated by the awarding body.

Externally marked and/or externally set practical examinations taken at different times across centres are classified as 'NEA'. (JCQ publication [Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments](#), Foreword)

SENCo

- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Ensures centre-delegated and awarding body approved arrangements are in place prior to a candidate taking his/her first formal supervised assessment
- Ensures candidates are aware of the access arrangements that are in place for their assessments
- Ensures a candidate has had appropriate opportunities to practise using the access arrangement(s) before his/her first examination
- Liaises with EO to ensure facilitators supporting candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular access arrangement(s)
- Liaises with the teacher where a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of his/her formal supervised assessment

Teaching staff

- Support the SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Provide the SENCo with assessment schedules to ensure arrangements are put in place when required
- Liaise with the SENCo regarding assessment materials that may need to be modified for a candidate

Exams Officer

- ensures cover sheets are provided as required by facilitators
- liaises with the teacher/SENCo where a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of his/her formal supervised assessment

Internal exams

These are exams or tests which are set and marked within the centre; normally a pre-cursor to external assessments.

SENCo

- Liaises with teaching staff & EO to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates

Exams Officer

- Supports the SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Liaises with the SENCo using the internal exam timetable to ensure arrangements are put in place when required
- Provide modified exam materials as necessary for a candidate

Teaching staff

- Provide exam materials that may need to be modified for a candidate
- provide opportunities for candidates to use EAA appropriate software/techniques as part of their normal way of working wherever possible

Facilitating access - examples

The following information confirms Bath Academy good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010 and the conduct of examinations.

On a candidate-by-candidate basis, consideration is given to

- adapting assessment arrangements
- adapting assessment materials
- the provision of specialist equipment or adaptation of standard equipment
- adaptation of the physical environment for access purposes

The table provides example arrangements, adjustments and adaptations that are considered to meet the need(s) of a candidate and the actions considered/taken by the centre for the purposes of facilitating access.

Example of candidate need(s)	Arrangements explored	Centre actions
A medical condition which prevents the candidate from taking exams in the centre	Alternative site for the conduct of examinations Supervised rest breaks	<p><i>SENCo gathers evidence to support the need for the candidate to take exams at home</i></p> <p><i>Vice Principal (Academic) provides written statement for file to confirm the need</i></p> <p><i>Approval confirmed by SENCo; AAO approval for both arrangements not required</i></p> <p><i>Vice Principal (Academic) discussion with candidate to confirm the arrangements should be put in place</i></p> <p><i>EO submits 'Alternative site form' for timetabled written exams to awarding body/bodies on line through CAP</i></p> <p><i>EO provides candidate with exam timetable and JCQ information for candidates</i></p> <p><i>Vice Principal (Academic) confirms with candidate the information is understood</i></p> <p><i>Vice Principal (Academic) agrees with candidate that prior to each exam will call to confirm fitness to take exam</i></p> <p><i>EO allocates invigilator(s) to candidate's timetable; confirms time of collection of exam papers and materials</i></p> <p><i>Invigilator monitors candidate's condition for each exam and records any issues on incident log</i></p> <p><i>Invigilator records rest breaks (time and duration) on appropriate log and confirms set time given for exam</i></p> <p><i>Invigilator briefs EO after each exam on how candidate's performance in exam may have been affected by his/her condition</i></p> <p><i>EO discusses with Vice Principal (Academic) if candidate is eligible for special consideration (candidate present but disadvantaged)</i></p> <p><i>EO processes request(s) for special consideration where applicable; appropriate log(s) provides supporting evidence</i></p> <p><i>Vice Principal (Academic) informs candidate that special consideration has been requested</i></p>

Candidate's has illegible handwriting or the quality of their written work is of a significantly lower standard in comparison to using a word processor	Use of a word Processor (WP) with spelling and grammar check facility disabled	<p>SENCo confirms candidate meets the criteria of Bath Academy Policy on the use of WP for examinations.</p> <p>SENCo collects evidence from teaching staff to show quality of handwriting in comparison to work produced using WP; also normal way of working</p> <p>SENCo approves WP as arrangement, completing required paperwork, signed and dated</p> <p>Word Processing/Cover sheets completed by invigilation staff /candidate</p>
Persistent and significant difficulties when accessing & processing information	25% Extra time	<p>SENCo confirms candidate is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010</p> <p>SENCo collects evidence from teaching staff to show how this impacts on candidate's teaching & learning, also normal way of working</p> <p>Candidate assessed for Exam Access Arrangements (EAAs)</p> <p>Form 8, completed, printed approval from AAO and signed data protection notice all kept on file with body of supporting evidence</p>
Persistent and significant difficulties in accessing written text	<p>Reader/computer reader</p> <p>25% Extra time</p> <p>Separate exam venue from main cohort</p>	<p>SENCo confirms candidate is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010</p> <p>SENCo collects evidence from teaching staff to show how this impacts on candidate's teaching & learning, also normal way of working; Candidate assessed for EAAs</p> <p>Exam Reading Pen or Word Processor used with appropriate software and training for examinations wherever possible, may use human reader for Maths and Science examinations</p> <p>Form 8, completed, printed approval from AAO and signed data protection notice all kept on file with body of supporting evidence</p>
Impairment causes candidate to have substantial and long term difficulties with writing	<p>Scribe</p> <p>25% Extra Time</p> <p>Separate exam venue from main cohort</p>	<p>SENCo confirms candidate is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010</p> <p>SENCo collects evidence from teaching staff to show how this impacts on candidate's teaching & learning, also normal way of working; Candidate assessed for EAAs</p> <p>Candidate uses word processor (with spellcheck) as scribe wherever possible, human scribe only used if candidate unable to word process; word processing/scribe cover sheet completed as required</p> <p>Form 8, completed, printed approval from AAO and signed data protection notice all kept on file with body of supporting evidence</p>
Significant difficulty in concentrating	<p>Prompter</p> <p>Separate exam venue from main cohort</p>	<p>SENCo gathers evidence to support substantial and long term adverse impairment</p> <p>Confirms with candidate how and when they will be prompted</p> <p>Briefs invigilator to monitor candidate and the method of prompting (call out his name to bring his attention back to the paper - confirms requirement for separate room)</p>

A wheelchair user	<p>Desk</p> <p>Rooms</p> <p>Facilities</p> <p>Seating arrangements</p> <p>Practical assistant</p> <p>Possibly separate exam venue from main cohort</p>	<p><i>EO may have to apply for alternative venue as no ground floor exam Prooms in Chapel Row</i></p> <p><i>Applies for practical assistant to help candidate set up wheelchair and other equipment in a practical assessment; approval automatically fails so awarding body referral lists the tasks that will be performed</i></p> <p><i>Provides height adjustable desk in exam room</i></p> <p><i>Allocates exam room on ground floor near adapted bathroom facilities</i></p> <p><i>Spaces desks to allow wheelchair access</i></p> <p><i>Seats candidate near exam room door</i></p> <p><i>Confirms arrangements in place to assist the candidate in case of emergency evacuation of the exam room</i></p> <p><i>Practical assistant cover sheet printed from AAO; to be completed by facilitator and securely attached to candidate's work where this may be applicable to the assessment</i></p>
-------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------