

**Complaints and appeals**

Purpose of the procedure

This procedure confirms Nova Education trusts compliance with JCQ’s *General Regulations for Approved Centres 2022-2023, section 5.3 x) (P13)* that the centre has in place *“…a written complaints and appeals procedure which will cover general complaints regarding the centre’s delivery or administration of a qualification.”*

Grounds for complaint

A candidate (or his/her/parent/carer) may make a complaint relating to teaching and learning, access arrangements, entries, conducting examinations, results, post-results and any other process relating to examinations. Examples of complaint criteria can be found in Appendix 1.

Complaints and appeals procedure

If a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) has a general concern or complaint about the centre’s delivery or administration of a qualification he/she is following, Nova Education Trust encourages him/her to try to resolve this informally in the first instance with the class teacher, examination officer or member of SLT. If a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) wishes to proceed with a formal complaint this must be made in writing to the Examination Officer or Head of Centre. The Examination Officer or Head of Centre will confirm receipt of the complaint within 7 working days.

**How a formal complaint is investigated**

The Examination Officer or Head of Centre will further investigate or appoint a member of the senior leadership team (who is not involved in the grounds for complaint and has no personal interest in the outcome) to investigate the complaint and report on the findings and conclusion.

The findings and conclusion will be provided to the complainant within 30 working days.

**Appeals**

Following the outcome, if the complainant remains dissatisfied and believes there are clear grounds, an appeal can be submitted.

Any appeal must be submitted in writing to the Examination Officer or Head of Centre.

The appeal will be referred to Chair of Governors for consideration.

The Chair of Governors will inform the appellant of the final conclusion in due course.

Appendix 1

**Teaching and learning**

Quality of teaching and learning, for example

Pre-release/advance material/set task issued by the awarding body not provided on time to an exam candidate

The taking of an assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not conducted according to the JCQ/awarding body instructions

The marking of an internal assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not undertaken according to the requirements of the awarding body (complainant should refer to the centre’s *internal appeals procedure*)

Centre fails to adhere to its *internal appeals procedure*

Candidate not informed of his/her centre assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body

Candidate not informed of his/her centre assessed marks in sufficient time to request/appeal a review of marking prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body

Candidate not given sufficient time to review materials to make a decision, whether to request a review of centre assessed marks

**Access arrangements**

Candidate not assessed by the centre’s appointed assessor

Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding his/her access arrangements

Candidate did not consent to personal data being shared electronically (by the non-acquisition of a signed Data Protection Notice)

Candidate not informed/adequately informed of the arrangements in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangements would not apply

Exam information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it

Adapted equipment put in place failed during exam/assessment

Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment

Appropriate arrangements not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment

**Entries**

Failure to clearly explain a decision of early entry for a qualification to candidate (or parent/carer)

Candidate not entered/entered late (incurring a late entry fee) for a required exam/assessment

Candidate entered for a wrong exam/assessment

Candidate entered for a wrong tier of entry

**Conducting examinations**

Failure to adequately brief candidate on exam timetable/exam regulations prior to exam/assessment taking place

Room in which exam held did not provide candidate with appropriate conditions for taking the exam

Inadequate invigilation in exam room

Failure to conduct exam according to the regulations

Online system failed during (online) exam/assessment

Disruption during exam/assessment

Alleged, suspected or actual malpractice incident not investigated/reported

Eligible application for special consideration for a candidate not submitted/not submitted to timescale

Failure to inform/update candidate on the outcome of a special consideration application

**Results and Post-results**

Before exams, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the accessibility of senior members of centre staff after the publication of results

Candidate not having access to a member of senior staff after the publication of results to discuss/make decision on the submission of an enquiry

Candidate request for return of work after moderation and work not available/disposed of earlier than allowed in the regulations

Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a result (complainant to refer via exams officer to awarding body *post-results services*)

Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a centre decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal (complainant to refer via The Head of Centre to the centre’s *internal appeals procedure*)

Centre applied for the wrong post-results service/for the wrong exam paper for a candidate

Centre missed awarding body deadline to apply for a post-results service

Centre applied for a post-results service for candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission

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