Special Consideration Policy

Ralph Thoresby School

Special Consideration Policy

Centre name	Ralph Thoresby School
Centre number	37655
Date policy first created	05/05/2024
Current policy approved by	Graham Cowgill
Current policy reviewed by	Kelly Ghosal
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Key staff involved in the policy

Role	**Name**
Head of centre	Will Carr
Senior leader(s)	Mudassir Mir Graham Cowgill
Exams officer	Kelly Ghosal
ALS lead/SENCo	Angela Caswell
Other staff (if applicable)	

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that the special consideration process at Ralph Thoresby School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to GR, SC and ICE refer to the JCQ publications **General Regulations for Approved Centres**, **A guide to the special consideration process** and **Instructions for conducting examinations**.

Introduction

Special consideration is given to a candidate who has temporarily experienced illness, injury or some other event outside of their control at the time of the assessment. It is applied when the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a candidate's ability to take an assessment or demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment. (SC 1)

Special consideration can only go some way to assist a candidate affected by a potentially wide range of difficulties, emotional or physical, which may influence performance in their assessments. It cannot remove the difficulty faced by the candidate. This means that there will be some situations where candidates should not be entered for a qualification or a unitised examination. This is because only minor adjustments can be made to the mark awarded. To make larger adjustments would jeopardize the standard of the qualification. (SC 1)

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to identify roles and responsibilities within the special consideration process and confirms Ralph Thoresby School will submit an application for special consideration where a candidate meets the published criteria. (GR 5.9)

Eligibility for special consideration

- Candidates will be eligible for special consideration if they have been fully prepared and have covered the whole course but performance in the examination, or in the production of coursework or non-examination assessment, is materially affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control (SC 2.1)
- Special consideration must be applied for at the time of the assessment (SC 2)
- Candidates will not be eligible for special consideration if preparation for, or performance in the examination is affected by the reasons detailed in the JCQ publication **A guide to the special consideration process** (SC 2.3)

Roles and responsibilities

The role of the head of centre

- Be familiar with, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication **A guide to the special consideration process**
- Ensure where a candidate meets the published criteria, an application for special consideration will be submitted to the relevant awarding body by the exams office/officer

Additional responsibilities:

N/A

The role of the exams office/officer

- Refer to the criteria detailed in the JCQ publication **A guide to the special consideration process** to determine where a candidate is/is not eligible for special consideration
- Where a candidate meets the published criteria, submit an application for special consideration to the relevant awarding body

Additional responsibilities:

Maintain records of special consideration applications

The role of the senior leader

- Sign appropriate evidence to support all eligible applications (SC 6)

Additional responsibilities:

N/A

The role of other staff

- Provide any appropriate evidence or information that may be required to determine a candidate's eligibility for special consideration

Additional responsibilities:

N/A

The role of an affected candidate (or parent/carer)

- Provide any medical or other evidence that may be required to confirm eligibility for special consideration

Additional responsibilities:

N/A

Applying for special consideration

At Ralph Thoresby School, where a candidate is eligible, special consideration will be applied for at the time of the assessment in accordance with the regulations as detailed in the JCQ publication **A guide to the special consideration process**.

For candidates who are present for the assessment but disadvantaged Ralph Thoresby School must be satisfied that there has been a material detrimental effect on candidate examination performance or in the production of coursework or non-examination assessment.

Examples where a candidate/candidates may be eligible for special consideration include:

A candidate arrives for the examination and is clearly unwell, extremely distressed and/or may have sustained an injury that requires emergency access arrangements to be put in place:

- the candidate is kept under centre supervision (from 30 minutes after the published starting time for that examination until they begin it) while appropriate arrangements are put in place for the candidate to take the examination (ICE 7.4)
- special consideration is applied if this indisposition has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on the candidate's ability to demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in the examination (SC 1)
- Application for an allowance on the last paper taken in a day when a candidate has been entered for three or more examinations timetabled for the same day and the total duration of those papers is more than 6 hours (GCE and Level 3 exams) or more than 5 hours 30 minutes (GCSE, Level 1 and Level 2 exams) including any approved extra time but not any time taken for supervised rest breaks, special consideration for an allowance on the last paper taken will be applied for (SC 3.3)
- Serious disturbance during the examination (SC 2.1)
- Candidates will not be eligible for special consideration if preparation for, or performance in the examination is affected by a minor disturbance in the examination room caused by another candidate, such as momentary bad behaviour or a mobile phone ringing (SC 2.3)

Additional examples:

N/A

Candidates who are absent from a timetabled component/unit for acceptable reasons

If a candidate is absent for acceptable reasons, and Ralph Thoresby School is prepared to support an application for special consideration, special consideration will be applied for if the examination missed is in the terminal series and the minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence can be met. (SC 4)

For unitised examinations taken in an examination series prior to certification, candidates must be re-entered for any missed units at the next assessment opportunity. Unless there are difficulties arising, e.g. group performances which cannot be repeated, special consideration will not be awarded. (SC 4)

Other issues

Where other issues or problems affect a candidate or a group of candidates, special consideration will be explored in **A guide to the special consideration process** and applied for where eligible. This may include, for example:

- Other certification (SC 5)
- Coursework/non-examination assessment extensions (SC 5)
- Shortfall in work (coursework/non-examination assessment) (SC 5)
- Lost or damaged work (non-examination assessment components) (SC 5)
- Candidates taking an incorrect or defective question paper (SC 5)
- Candidates undertaking the wrong controlled assessment or non-examination assessment assignment (SC 5)

Additional issues:

N/A

Where a candidate may be eligible for special consideration (a post-assessment adjustment) in a vocational qualification, Ralph Thoresby School will follow **A guide to special consideration** (section 7) and awarding body guidance to determine if, when and how an adjustment can be applied for.

Processing applications for special consideration

The role of the head of centre

- Ensure all eligible applications are supported by appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team (SC 6)

Additional responsibilities:

N/A

The role of the exams office/officer

- Ensure applications are processed as required by the awarding bodies
- Ensure a candidate/candidates (or a parent/carer) understands that all cases must be dealt with by the centre (SC 6)
- Ensure that special consideration is applied for at the time of the assessment
- Ensure special consideration is not applied for in a cumulative fashion and where a candidate may be affected by different indispositions, ensure special consideration is only applied for the most serious indisposition
- Keep evidence to support all applications on file until after the publication of results and provide

the appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team to support an application where this may be requested by an awarding body (SC 6)

- Meet the awarding body deadline(s) for submitting applications

Other responsibilities:

N/A

Submitting applications for special consideration

At Ralph Thoresby School, where a candidate or group of candidates is/are eligible for special consideration, applications will be submitted to the relevant awarding body following the published processes in **A guide to the special consideration process**.

In cases of online applications for special consideration, the candidate/candidates will be informed when an application for special consideration is submitted to the awarding body (to ensure compliance with the UK GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018).

Evidence to support all applications will be kept on file until after the publication of results.

Timetabled written examinations

- Applications for individual candidates will be submitted online by logging into the relevant awarding body secure extranet site and following the links to special consideration (where the awarding body's secure site accepts applications online)
- A single application to cover all examinations affected where a candidate is present but disadvantaged and a separate application for each day on which examinations are missed where a candidate is absent from an examination for an acceptable reason will be submitted
- Form 10 **Application for special consideration** will only be completed and submitted to the awarding body where the online system does not accept applications for a particular qualification
- For cases involving groups of candidates, applications will be made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts group applications or form 10 will be completed
- Form 14 **Self certification form** (Self certification for candidates who have missed an examination) will only be completed by a candidate where circumstances warrant this and will not be used where the centre knows the candidate was ill

Internally assessed work

- Where appropriate, applications will be made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts them or form 10 will be completed and submitted to the awarding body
- Where a short extension to a work submission deadline for an individual candidate is being requested, the awarding body will be contacted directly
- Where an application relates to a shortfall in work for an individual candidate, this will be submitted online or by completing form 10, dependent on the awarding body

Post-assessment adjustments - vocational qualifications

- Where the learner's circumstances are eligible, form 10 or form VQ/SC **Application for special consideration Vocational qualifications** will be completed and submitted to the awarding body

Late applications

If, after the publication of results for a particular examination series, a claim is made that special

consideration was not applied for at the time of an assessment where a candidate was eligible, the claimant will be informed that late applications will only be accepted by an awarding body in the most exceptional circumstances and where a senior leader is able to produce compelling evidence to support a late application.

If a claim is made after the completion of a review of results, the claimant will be informed that an application for special consideration cannot be submitted.

Changes 2023/2024

(Updated) Second paragraph in **Introduction** due to slight changes of wording in JCQ's A guide to the special consideration process (section 1)

(Changed) Under **The role of the senior leader**: Produce signed evidence to support all applications for special consideration (To) Sign appropriate evidence to support all eligible applications

(Changed) Under (Processing applications) **The role of the exams office/officer**: Keep evidence to support all applications on file until after the publication of results and provide the signed evidence produced by a member of the senior leadership team in support an application where this may be requested by an awarding body (To) Keep evidence to support all applications on file until after the publication of results and provide the appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team to support an application where this may be requested by an awarding body

(Changed) Under **Candidates who are absent from a timetabled component/unit for acceptable reasons**: If a candidate is absent for acceptable reasons, and [centre name] can support this, special consideration will be applied for if the examination missed is in the terminal series and the minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence can be met. (To) If a candidate is absent for acceptable reasons, and (centre name) is prepared to support an application for special consideration, special consideration will be applied for if the examination missed is in the terminal series and the minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence can be met.

Centre-specific changes

No centre specific changes applicable