



The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School

Candidate Absence Policy

SLT Lead: Ellie Bunston

Governor Committee Approval: AQT Committee

Review Date: September 2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Exams officer	Clara Lobban
Senior leader(s)	Ellie Bunston
Head of centre	Tom Williams
Other staff (if applicable)	Not Applicable

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that candidate absence from examinations at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to ICE and SC refer to the JCQ publications **Instructions for conducting examinations** and **A guide to the special consideration process**.

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements for candidates who are absent from an examination at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School.

An absent candidate may subsequently arrive once the exam is underway, becoming a late or very late arrival, at which point The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow a candidate who arrives after the start of the examination to enter the examination room and sit the examination. (See **Candidate Late Arrival Policy**)

Based upon the circumstances for the absence, and subject to the required conditions being met, an application for special consideration may also be made to the relevant awarding body.

1. Identifying and dealing with candidate absence

A candidate will be considered absent from an examination if:

The candidate is not present on completion of the attendance register once candidates are seated and have started the examination (ICE 22.5) Once a candidate is identified as absent from an examination, the following action will be taken:

- The candidate will be contacted immediately as to their whereabouts and as far as possible arrangements made to ensure their immediate arrival

If a candidate fails to sit an examination, the following action is taken:

- A confirmed candidate absence is clearly recorded on the attendance register which is sent to the examiner/marker
- The candidates absence is noted on the seating plan by the annotation "Abs" through the candidate details.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Overview

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with candidate absence once it has been identified:

Clara Lobban
Ellie Bunston

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with candidates who are persistently absent from examinations:

Clara Lobban
Ellie Bunston

The role of invigilators

Invigilators will:

- Be informed of the process for dealing with absent candidates through training
- Ensure that absent candidates are clearly indicated on the attendance register (ICE 22.4)

Additional responsibilities:

Not Applicable

The role of candidates

Candidates will be:

- Re-charged any relevant entry fees for unauthorised absence from examinations

Additional responsibilities:

Not Applicable

3. Special consideration

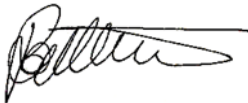
At The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School if a candidate is absent from a timetabled written examination for an acceptable reason, the candidate may be eligible for special consideration. This is where an adjustment may be made to the candidate's terminal grade by the awarding body, providing the following conditions are met:

- The examination is in the candidate's terminal exam series (SC 4.1)
- The candidate has completed or will be able to complete the required percentage of the assessment to meet the minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence (SC 4.3)
- The application for special consideration can be supported by signed evidence produced by a member of the senior leadership team (SC 6)

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with special consideration requests and applications:

Clara Lobban
Ellie Bunston

Approved by the AQT Governors Committee at their meeting of the 6th November 2025



Signed:

(Chair of AQT Governors Committee)