



The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School

Exam Complaints and Appeals Policy

SLT Lead: Ellie Bunston

Governor Committee Approval: AQT

Review Date: September 2026

1. Key staff involved in the procedure

Role	Name
Exams officer	Clara Lobban
Senior leader(s)	Ellie Bunston
Head of centre	Tom Williams
Other staff (if applicable)	Curriculum Team Leaders Nick Vaughan

This procedure is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that the complaints and appeals in relation to examinations at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in this procedure to GR refers to the JCQ publication **General Regulations for Approved Centres**.

2. Purpose of the procedure

The purpose of this procedure is to confirm the arrangements for complaints and appeals in relation to examinations at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School and confirms compliance with JCQ's **General Regulations for Approved Centres** (section 5.8) and outlining to candidates and their parents/carers the written complaints and appeals procedure which covers general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification.

3. Grounds for complaint

A candidate (or his/her/parent/carer) at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School may make a complaint on the grounds below.

Teaching and Learning

Quality of teaching and learning, for example

- Non-subject specialist teacher without adequate training/subject matter expertise utilised on a long-term basis
- Teacher lacking knowledge of new specification/incorrect core content studied/taught
- Core content not adequately covered
- Inadequate feedback for a candidate following assessment(s)
- Pre-release/advance material/set task issued by the awarding body not provided on time to an examination 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 their centre assessed mark prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not informed of their centre assessed mark 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 the centre assessed mark

Additional grounds for complaint relating to teaching and learning:

Not Applicable

Access arrangements

- Candidate not assessed by the centre's appointed assessor
- Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding their access arrangements
- Candidate did not consent to personal data being shared electronically (by the non-acquisition of a signed **data protection notice/candidate data personal consent form**)
- Candidate not informed/adequately informed of the arrangement(s) in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangement(s) would not apply
- Examination information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it
- Adapted equipment put in place failed during examination/assessment
- Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an examination/assessment

- Appropriate arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an examination/assessment as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment

Additional grounds for complaint relating to access arrangements:

Not Applicable

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 examination/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong examination/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong tier of entry

Additional grounds for complaint relating to examination entries:

Not Applicable

Conducting examinations

- Failure to adequately brief candidate on examination timetable/regulations prior to examination/assessment taking place
- Room in which assessment held did not provide candidate with appropriate conditions for taking the examination Inadequate invigilation in examination room
- Failure to conduct the examination according to the regulations
- Online system failed during (on-screen) examination/assessment
- Disruption during the examination/assessment
- Alleged, suspected or actual malpractice incident not investigated/reported
- Failure to inform/update candidate on the outcome of a special consideration application
- Additional grounds for complaint relating to the conducting of examinations:

Not Applicable

Results and Post-Results

- Before examinations, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the availability 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 a decision on the submission of a results review/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 re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal (complainant to refer to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre applied for the wrong post-results service/for the wrong script for a candidate
- Centre missed awarding body deadline to apply for a post-results service
- Centre applied for a post-results service for a candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission

Additional grounds for complaint relating to results and post-results: Not Applicable

4. Complaints and Appeals Procedure

If a candidate (or parent/carer) has a general concern or complaint about the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification, The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School encourages an informal resolution in the first instance. The concern or complaint should be raised via phone or email with the Exams Officer and/or Ellie Bunston.

If a concern or complaint fails to be resolved informally, the candidate (or parent/carer) is then at liberty to make a formal complaint.

How to make a formal complaint

All documentation relating to the submission of a formal complaint is available from the school and should be returned to Clara Lobban Exams Officer Ellie Bunston Deputy Head.

Formal complaints will be logged and acknowledged within Complete in 5 school days.

To make a formal complaint, candidates (or parents/carers) must Complete and return a complaints and appeals form.

How a formal complaint is investigated

The headteacher (or other person appointed by the headteacher for this purpose) will then conduct their own investigation. The written conclusion of this investigation will be sent to the complainant within 5 school days.

The findings and conclusion of any investigation will be provided to the complainant within 5 school days.

Appeals

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

To submit an appeal, candidates (or parents/carers) must inform the clerk to the governing board in writing within 5 school days.

Appeals will be logged and acknowledged within 5 school days.

The appeal will be referred to the panel hearing stage.

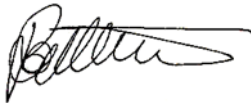
The panel will be appointed by or on behalf of the proprietor and must consist of at least 3 people who were not directly involved in the matters detailed in the complaint. At least 1 panel member must be independent of the management and running of the school. The panel cannot be made up solely of governing board members, as they are not independent of the management and running of the school.

It will be the responsibility of the school will inform those involved of the decision in writing within 5 school days. to inform the appellants of the final conclusion.

Additional details on the appeals process:

Not Applicable

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



Signed:

(Chair of AQT Governors Committee)