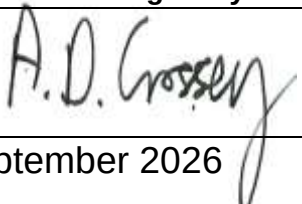


EXAMS MALPRACTICE POLICY



NAMED PERSON:	Mr Richard Peel Deputy Headteacher
----------------------	---------------------------------------

Last Review Date:	September 2026
Review Cycle:	1 Year
Next Review Date:	September 2027

Mr Andy Crossey Chairman of Governing Body
Signed: 
Date: September 2026

Key staff involved in the Policy

Role	Name
Head of Centre	Mr Andy McGinnes
Senior Leader(s)	Mr Richard Peel
Exams Officer	Mrs Sarah Mills
Other staff (if applicable)	

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any malpractice at The Buckingham School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in the policy to **GR** and **SMPP** relate to relevant sections of the current JCQ publications **General Regulations for Approved Centres** and **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures**.

Introduction

What is malpractice and maladministration?

'Malpractice' and 'maladministration' are related concepts, the common theme of which is that they involve a failure to follow the rules of an examination or assessment. This policy and procedure uses the word 'malpractice' to cover both 'malpractice' and 'maladministration' and it means any act, default or practice which is:

- a breach of the Regulations
- a breach of awarding body requirements regarding how a qualification should be delivered
- a failure to follow established procedures in relation to a qualification

which:

- gives rise to prejudice to candidates
- compromises public confidence in qualifications
- compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of a result or certificate
- damages the authority, reputation or credibility of any awarding body or centre or any officer, employee or agent of any awarding body or centre (SMPP 1)

Candidate Malpractice

'Candidate malpractice' means malpractice by a candidate in connection with any examination or assessment, including the preparation and authentication of any controlled assessments, coursework or non-examination assessments, the presentation of any practical work, the compilation of portfolios of assessment evidence and the writing of any examination paper. (SMPP 2)

Centre Staff Malpractice

'Centre staff malpractice' means malpractice committed by:

- a member of staff, contractor (whether employed under a contract of employment or a contract for services) or a volunteer at a centre; or
- an individual appointed in another capacity by a centre such as an invigilator, a Communication Professional, a Language Modifier, a practical assistant, a prompter, a reader or a scribe (SMPP 2)

Centre Malpractice

'Centre malpractice' normally involves malpractice where there is an element of systemic failure, a breach in policies or widespread malpractice such that a centre-level sanction is appropriate (SMPP 2)

Suspected Malpractice

For the purposes of this document, suspected malpractice means all alleged or suspected incidents of malpractice. (SMPP 2)

Purpose of the Policy

To confirm The Buckingham School:

- has in place a written malpractice policy which covers all qualifications delivered by the centre and details how candidates are informed and advised to avoid committing malpractice in examinations /assessments, how suspected malpractice issues should be escalated within the centre and reported to the relevant awarding body (GR 5.3)

General Principles

In accordance with the regulations The Buckingham School will:

- Take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after examinations have taken place (GR 5.11)
- Inform the awarding body immediately of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, by completing the appropriate documentation (GR 5.11)
- As required by an awarding body, gather evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) in accordance with the JCQ publication **Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures** and provide such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require (GR 5.11)

Preventing Malpractice

The Buckingham School has in place:

- Robust processes to prevent and identify malpractice, as outlined in section 3 of the JCQ publication **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures**. (SMPP 4.3)
- This includes ensuring that all staff involved in the delivery of assessments and examinations understand the requirements for conducting these as specified in the following JCQ documents and any further awarding body guidance: General Regulations for Approved Centres 2025-26; Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE) 2025-26; Instructions for conducting coursework 2025-26; Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments ; Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2025-26; A guide to the special consideration process 2025-26; Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures 2025-26; Plagiarism in Assessments; AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications; A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes 2025-26 (SMPP 3.3.1) Post Results Services June 2025 and November 2025; Guidance for centres on cyber security

Informing and advising candidates how to avoid committing malpractice in examinations / assessments

All JCQ notices e.g. Information for candidates, non-examination assessments, coursework, on-screen tests, written examinations, social media, plagiarism are distributed to candidates prior to assessments / examinations taking place. These are available on the school website and distributed prior to any internal and external exams.

Students are informed, verbally and in writing, about the required conditions under which assessments are conducted, including warnings about the introduction of prohibited materials and devices into the assessments, and access to restricted resources.

Students are informed, verbally and in writing, about actions that constitute malpractice and the sanctions that can be imposed on those that commit malpractice.

Students involved in examination clash arrangements are made aware of appropriate behaviour during supervision i.e. ensuring that candidates cannot pass on or receive information about the content of assessments.

When completing coursework or non-examination assessments, students are reminded of the need for the work to be their own. This includes the use of AI (as detailed in the JCQ document 'AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications')

AI Use in Assessments

With reference to the JCQ guidance for Teachers & Assessors - AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications: Students complete the majority of their exams and a large number of other assessments under close staff supervision with limited access to authorised materials and no permitted access to the internet. The delivery of these assessments should be unaffected by developments in AI tools as students must not be able to use such tools when completing these assessments, although care must be taken when a student is allowed to use a laptop or similar device for exams, to ensure they have no access to AI tools. There are some assessments in which access to the internet is permitted in the preparatory, research or production stages. The majority of these assessments will be Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs), coursework and internal assessments for General Qualifications (GQs) and Vocational & Technical Qualifications (VTQs). JCQ's guidance which is designed to help students and teachers to complete NEAs, coursework and other internal assessments successfully is followed in relation to these assessments. The following JCQ support materials are also used to help teachers understand and prevent AI misuse and to help students to better understand the rules for use of AI in assessments: AI information sheet for teachers, AI poster for students, AI senior leader presentation for teachers, AI teacher presentation for students. Candidates will be issued with of the JCQ Information for candidates - AI (Artificial Intelligence and assessments) or similar centre document prior to completing their work/prior to signing the declaration of authentication.

Identification and reporting of Malpractice

Escalating suspected malpractice issues

- Once suspected malpractice is identified, any member of staff at the centre can report it using the appropriate channels (SMPP 4.3)

Any member of staff at the Buckingham School can identify and report cases of suspected malpractice using the appropriate channels. This includes suspected candidate or centre malpractice. Where the suspected malpractice relates to a particular member of staff, a senior member of staff is chosen to gather the evidence. All internal disclosures will be handled in line with the Public Interest Disclosure Act (Whistleblowing) and the school will take active steps to shield reporters from retribution. They must be independent and not connected to the department in question. It is the Head of Centre's responsibility to ensure that there is no conflict of interest which might compromise the investigation.

If it is the Head of centre that is suspected of malpractice, the responsibility for gathering information will fall to the Chair of the Governing body.

Reporting suspected malpractice to the awarding body

- The head of centre will notify the appropriate awarding body immediately of all alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice, using the appropriate forms, and will conduct any investigation and gathering of information in accordance with the requirements of the JCQ publication **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures** (SMPP 4.1.3)
- The head of centre will ensure that where a candidate who is a child/vulnerable adult is the subject of a malpractice investigation, the candidate's parent/carer/ appropriate adult is kept informed of the progress of the investigation (SMPP 4.1.3)
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of candidate malpractice. Form JCQ/M2 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of suspected staff malpractice/maladministration (SMPP 4.4, 4.6)
- Candidate malpractice offences relating to the content of work (i.e. inappropriate/offensive content, copying/collusion, plagiarism (including AI misuse) and/or false declaration of authentication) which are discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment component prior to the

candidate signing the declaration of authentication, do not need to be reported to the awarding body. Instead, they will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's internal procedures. In these instances, the investigation will follow this 3-step process: 1. Internal review by curriculum leader; 2. Student will be interviewed to evaluate the authenticity of the work; 3. Application of the internal penalties (such as resetting the task under supervision OR giving a zero mark for that specific module). Malpractice by a candidate discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment where the offence does not relate to the content of candidates' work (e.g. possession of unauthorised materials, breach of assessment conditions) or where a candidate has signed the declaration of authentication, must be reported using a JCQ M1 to the relevant awarding body. If, at the time of the malpractice, there is no entry for that candidate (who the centre intended to enter), the centre is required to submit an entry by the required entry deadline. (SMPP 4.5)

- If, in the view of the investigator, there is sufficient evidence to implicate an individual in malpractice, that individual (a candidate or a member of staff) will be informed of the rights of accused individuals (SMPP 5.33-3.4)
- Once the information gathering has concluded, the head of centre (or other appointed information gatherer) will submit a written report summarising the information obtained and actions taken to the relevant awarding body, accompanied by the information obtained during the course of their enquiries (5.35)
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used when reporting candidate cases; for centre staff, form JCQ/ M2 will be used (SMPP 5.36)
- The awarding body will decide on the basis of the report, and any supporting documentation, whether there is evidence of malpractice and if any further investigation is required. The head of centre will be informed accordingly (SMPP 5.40)

Communicating Malpractice Decisions

Once a decision has been made, it will be communicated in writing to the head of centre as soon as possible. The head of centre will communicate the decision to the individuals concerned and pass on details of any sanctions and action in cases where this is indicated. The head of centre will also inform the individuals if they have the right to appeal. (SMPP 11.1)

Appeals against decisions made in cases of Malpractice

The Buckingham School will:

- Provide the individual with information on the process and timeframe for submitting an appeal, where relevant
- Refer to further information and follow the process provided in the JCQ publication **A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes**

Additional Notes:

This policy works in conjunction with the 'Assessment Malpractice Policy' for BTEC qualifications'.