



Exmouth
Community
College
Academy Trust

MALPRACTICE POLICY

Policy Details	Date
Written by	Exams Office Model
Reviewed by	Cirstie Rennie
Ratified by	Curriculum Committee
Date agreed by Governors	23.01.24
Review Cycle	Annual
Review date	Spring 2025

Malpractice Policy (Exams)

Exmouth Community College

Malpractice Policy (Exams)

Centre Name	Exmouth Community College
Centre Number	54269
Date policy first created	06/11/2023
Current policy approved by	Pending
Current policy reviewed by	NA
Date of next review	01/11/2024

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of Centre	Tom Inman
Senior leader(s)	Mrs Lisa Malton Mr David Holt Mr Ashley Dyer
Exams officer	Cirstie Rennie
Other staff (if applicable)	Ms Beck Beaumont Data and Assessment Manager Heads Of Department

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any malpractice at Exmouth Community College 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)

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 Exmouth Community College:

- 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 Exmouth Community College 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

Exmouth Community College 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 2023-2024; Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE) 2023-2024; Instructions for conducting coursework 2023-2024; Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments 2023-2024; Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2023-2024; A guide to the special consideration process 2023-2024; Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures 2023-2024; Plagiarism in Assessments; AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications; A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes 2023-2024* (SMPP 3.3.1)

Additional information:

This information is communicated to all staff via the staff update. There are links to the relevant documents.

Informing and advising candidates

Candidates are sent the JCQ Warnings and Information to Candidates at the start of their course and then again when they are entered into a series. An assembly is also held before candidates sit their final exams.

Exmouth Community College follows the guidance provided in the 'AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of qualifications' JCQ document. This is disseminated to all Teaching Staff. They are responsible for making sure that candidates understand what AI misuse is and the consequences.

Students must be made aware that where the use of AI is appropriate, that this should be referenced in the correct manner.

Students using Word Processors for their exams will be issued with exam logins and therefore will not have access to AI tools.

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)

Malpractice should be reported to the Exams Officer or Head of Centre. If reported to the Exams officer the

information will be escalated to the Data and Assessment Manager and the Head of Centre.

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)
- Malpractice by a candidate discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non- examination assessment component prior to the candidate signing the declaration of authentication need not be reported to the awarding body but will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's internal procedures. The only exception to this is where the awarding body's confidential assessment material has potentially been breached. The breach will be reported to the awarding body immediately (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)
- 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/M3 will be used (SMPP 5.37)
- 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)

Additional information:

NA

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)

Additional information:

NA

Appeals against decisions made in cases of malpractice

Exmouth Community College 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 information:

NA

Changes 2023/2024

Under heading **Purpose of the policy:** (Changed) The purpose of this policy is to confirm how Exmouth Community College manages malpractice under normal delivery arrangements in accordance with the regulations (To) To confirm Exmouth Community College 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)

Under heading **General Principles:** Moved subsections **Candidate malpractice** and **Centre staff malpractice** from this section and added under **Introduction** section

Under heading **Preventing Malpractice:** (Added) A new bullet point: 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 2023-2024
- Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE) 2023-2024
- Instructions for conducting coursework 2023-2024
- Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments 2023-2024
- Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2023-2024
- A guide to the special consideration process 2023-2024
- Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures 2023-2024
- Plagiarism in Assessments
- AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications
- A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes 2023-2024 (SMPP 3.3.1)

(Added) New subheading **Informing and advising candidates** and an insert field to be populated according to the centre's process

Under heading **Identification and reporting of malpractice:** (Added) New subheading **Escalating suspected malpractice issues** and

- new bullet point: Once suspected malpractice is identified, any member of staff at the centre can report it using the appropriate channels (SMPP 4.3)
- an insert field to be populated according to the centre's process

(Added) New subheading **Reporting suspected malpractice to the awarding body**

(Added) New bullet point: 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)

(Changed) SMPP reference: 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 5.32) (To) 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)

(Changed) Once the information gathering has concluded, the head of centre (or other appointed information-gatherer) will submit a written report summarising the case to the relevant awarding body, accompanied by the information obtained during the course of their enquiries (SMPP 5.34) (To) 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 (SMPP 5.35)

(Changed) SMPP reference: Form JCQ/M1 will be used when reporting candidate cases; for centre staff, form JCQ/M3 will be used (SMPP 5.36) (To) Form JCQ/M1 will be used when reporting candidate cases; for centre staff, form JCQ/M3 will be used (SMPP 5.37)

(Changed) SMPP reference: 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 5.39) (To) 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)

Under heading **Appeals against decisions made in cases of malpractice**:(Changed) Provide the individual with information on the process for submitting an appeal, where relevant (To) Provide the individual with information on the process and timeframe for submitting an appeal, where relevant

Under each relevant section added **Additional information** fields to be populated by the user if applicable

Centre-specific changes

NA