



St Laurence School

# Special Consideration Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Standards \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Jan 2020 \_\_\_\_\_

Review date: \_\_\_\_\_ Jan 2021 \_\_\_\_\_

## What is special consideration?

*“Special consideration is a post-examination adjustment to a candidate’s mark or grade to reflect temporary illness, temporary injury or some other event outside of the candidate’s control at the time of the assessment, which 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.*

*Special consideration can only seek to go some way to assist a candidate affected by a potentially wide range of difficulties, emotional or physical, which may influence performance in examinations. It cannot remove the difficulty faced by the candidate. There will be situations where candidates should not be entered for an examination. Only minor adjustments can be made to the mark awarded because to do more than this would jeopardize the standard of the examination.”*

## Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to identify roles and responsibilities in the special consideration process and confirms that St.Laurence School agrees to *“submit any applications for special consideration where candidates meet the published criteria.”*

## Eligibility for special consideration

### *Roles and responsibilities*

#### **Head of centre**

- Is familiar with the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication
- Ensures that, where relevant and in eligible situations, applications for special consideration are submitted to awarding bodies by the exams officer

#### **Exams officer**

- Understands the criteria to determine where candidates will/will not be eligible for special consideration
- Ensures that, where relevant and in eligible situations, applications for special consideration are submitted to awarding bodies

#### **Teaching staff and/or SENCo**

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

#### **Candidates (or parents/carers)**

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

### *Applying for special consideration*

Where eligible, special consideration is applied for in a specific exam series where candidates *“have been fully prepared and have covered the whole course but performance in the examination, or in the production of controlled*

*assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment, is materially affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control.”*

Examples:

Where a candidate may arrive for an exam 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 will be kept comfortable and under supervision from the required time while appropriate arrangements are put in place for the candidate to take the exam in the best possible conditions
- a judgement will be made on how the candidate’s situation or disposition affected performance in the exam
- where appropriate and where eligible, special consideration is applied for

Where candidates may be affected by a major disturbance in the exam room (emergency evacuation etc.), special consideration is applied for on behalf of all candidates.

Where a candidate takes three or more timetabled exams on the same day and the total duration of all papers is more than 5 hours 30 minutes (GCSE) or more than 6 hours (GCE) including *any approved extra time but not any time taken for supervised rest breaks* special consideration for an allowance on last paper taken is applied for.

Where a candidate may be affected by a minor disturbance in the exam room caused by another candidate (momentary bad behaviour, mobile phone ringing etc.), special consideration cannot be applied for.

If a candidate is absent for acceptable reasons, and the centre can verify this, special consideration is applied for if the exam missed is in the terminal series and the *minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence* can be met. If there is an opportunity to re-enter the candidate in the next available exam series, the centre will make the entry and special consideration is not applied for

Where other issues or problems affect a candidate or a group of candidates, special consideration is explored and applied for where eligible. This might include, for example:

- requesting an honorary certificate
- a short extension to non-examination assessment deadlines
- submitting a reduced quantity of non-examination assessment (shortfall in work)
- lost or damaged work
- candidates taking an incorrect or defective question paper
- candidates undertaking the wrong controlled assessment assignment

Where a candidate may be eligible for special consideration (a post assessment adjustment) in a vocational qualification, the centre follows awarding body guidance to determine if, when and how an adjustment can be applied for.

## Processing applications for special consideration

### *Roles and responsibilities*

#### **Head of centre**

- Ensures where a candidate may be a member of the family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friend and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) of a member of exams office staff, the application will be authorised by an alternative member of centre staff

#### **Senior leadership team**

- Produce/provide signed evidence in support of an application where this may be requested by an awarding body

#### **Exams officer**

- Ensures applications are processed as required by the awarding bodies
- Keeps evidence to support applications on file until after the publication of results
- Meets the required deadline(s) for submitting applications

#### **Teaching staff and/or SENCo**

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

#### **Candidates (or parents/carers) will**

- Provide any required medical or other evidence that may be required to support an application for special consideration

### *Submitting applications for special consideration*

Where a candidate or group of candidates is/are eligible for special consideration applications are submitted to the relevant awarding body following the published processes.

Evidence to support applications is kept on file until after the publication of results.

#### **Timetabled written exams**

- For GCE and GCSE qualifications, applications for individual candidates are submitted online by logging into the relevant awarding body secure extranet site and following the links to special consideration
- The processes for submitting a single application to cover all exams *where a candidate is present but disadvantaged* and a separate application for each day *where a candidate is absent from an examination for an acceptable reason* are followed
- For other qualifications, applications are submitted online where the awarding body's secure system accepts these
- The paper [form 10](#) Jcq/SC Application for special consideration is only completed and submitted where the online system does not accept applications for a particular qualification
- For groups of candidates, applications are made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts group applications or form 10 will be completed
- The paper [form 14](#) Jcq/ME Self certification for candidates who have missed an examination is only completed by a candidate where circumstances warrant this and is not used where the centre knows the candidate was ill

### **Internally assessed work**

- Where appropriate, applications are made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts them or form 10 is completed and submitted
- Where a short extension to a deadline is being requested an application is submitted online or by direct email, dependent on the awarding body
- Where an application relates to a shortfall in work, this is submitted online or by completing form 10, dependent on the awarding body
- Where an application relates to lost or damaged work, this is submitted online or by completing [form 15](#) *JCQ/LCW Notification of lost centre assessed work*, dependent on the awarding body

### **Private candidates**

- Any private candidate entered by the centre must liaise with the exams officer (not the awarding body) regarding any application for special consideration

### **Late applications**

If, after the publication of results for a particular exam 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 member of the senior leadership team is able to produce 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.