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| <b>Policy Name:</b>    | Emergency Evacuation Policy (Exams) |
| <b>Policy Type:</b>    | Statutory                           |
| <b>Issue Date:</b>     | 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2026          |
| <b>To be reviewed:</b> | 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2027          |
| <b>Approved by:</b>    | Board of Trustees                   |
| <b>Policy Owner:</b>   | Steph Brown                         |

## Glossary of abbreviations

|         |                                                                    |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JCQ     | Joint Council of Qualifications                                    |
| JCQ ICE | Joint Council of Qualifications: Instructions for Conducting Exams |

## Summary of updates for 2025 - 26

No school specific changes for 2025-26

Update under Actions taken in the event of an emergency evacuation of the examination room to reflect the arrangements for on-screen assessments

## 1. Aims

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements at Southfield School for dealing with an emergency evacuation of an examination room by defining staff roles and responsibilities and confirming the emergency evacuation procedure.
- 1.2. This policy ensures compliance with JCQ regulations (ICE 25) which state that centres must have a written policy for dealing with emergency evacuation of the examination room which will be subject to inspection by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service.

## 2. Legislation and Guidance

- 2.1. An emergency evacuation is required where it is unsafe for candidates to remain in the examination room. This might include a fire, the fire alarm sounding to warn of fire, bomb alert or other serious threat.
- 2.2. In exceptional situations, where candidates might be severely disadvantaged or distressed by remaining in the room, the emergency evacuation procedure may also need to be followed. This might include situations where there is severe disruption in the examination room, serious illness of a candidate or invigilator or similarly serious incidents.
- 2.3. As each incident may be different, advice will be sought (if applicable) from the relevant awarding body as soon as it is safe to do so (ICE 25.6)
- 2.4. Where candidates are unable to return to the building to complete the examination, the relevant awarding body will be contacted immediately for advice (ICE 25.6)

### **3. Actions taken in the event of a potential emergency evacuation of the exam room**

- 3.1. In the event of a fire alarm, invigilators are trained to stop the exam and make a note of the time, contacting the Exams officer to establish if the fire alarm is 'real' acting based on this answer.
- 3.2. If the fire alarm is not considered to be an issue to the exam room, Invigilators are trained to manage the students in silence until the alarm has stopped.
- 3.3. Invigilators will remind candidates they are still under formal examination conditions and that they must close their answer booklets until they are instructed to re-start the exam.
- 3.4. Invigilators announce clearly to candidates when they may begin and how much time they have (the examination will formally restart at this point)
- 3.5. Invigilators record the time the examination(s) restarted and amend the displayed finishing time(s)
- 3.6. Invigilators are trained to record as much detail on the exam room incident log when able to do so (ensuring candidates are continually always supervised and giving complete attention to this duty) and to ensure the exams officer is fully briefed at the end of the examination(s) to enable a full report to be submitted to the awarding body/bodies

### **4. Actions taken in the event of an emergency evacuation of the exam room**

- 4.1. In the event of a fire in the building, candidates are evacuated through the nearest fire exit in a controlled manner and supervised away from the main student population to maintain security.
- 4.2. At the centre, the following actions (in accordance with ICE 25) are taken if an exam room must be evacuated:
  - 4.2.1. Candidates are instructed to stop writing
  - 4.2.2. The attendance register is collected (to ensure all candidates are present)
  - 4.2.3. The examination room is evacuated in line with the instructions given by the appropriate authority
  - 4.2.4. Candidates are advised to leave all question papers and scripts in the examination room. Candidates are advised to close their answer booklet(s)
  - 4.2.5. Candidates are instructed to leave the room in silence
  - 4.2.6. Candidates are supervised as closely as possible while they are out of the examination room so that there is no discussion about the examination
  - 4.2.7. The time of the interruption is noted and how long it lasted
  - 4.2.8. Candidates are allowed the remainder of the working time set for the examination once it resumes
  - 4.2.9. If there are only a few candidates, the possibility is considered of taking the candidates (with question papers and scripts collected by the invigilator) to another place to finish the examination
  - 4.2.10. A full report is made of the incident and of actions taken (and retained for awarding body use)
- 4.3. For on-screen assessments, in addition to the actions in 4.2, invigilators should refer to any software specific instructions to safeguard the security of the assessment content and candidates' responses (For example, pausing the assessment and locking the evacuated assessment room without closing the software)
- 4.4. Where not allowed to return to the examination room, or if the decision is made by the appropriate authority that the examination(s) cannot be resumed, the centre's examination contingency plan will be invoked and invigilators/candidates briefed accordingly at the time.

## 5. Roles and responsibilities

### 5.1. The role of the head of centre:

- 5.1.1. Ensure that the emergency evacuation policy for examinations is fit for purpose and complies with relevant health and safety regulation
- 5.1.2. Ensure instructions from relevant local or national agencies are followed (JCQ ICE 25.1)
- 5.1.3. Ensures any breach of question paper security or malpractice is reported to the awarding body immediately (JCQ ICE 25.5)

### 5.2. The role of the senior leader:

- 5.2.1. Where responsible for the centre-wide emergency evacuation procedure, ensure that all staff and appointed fire marshals are aware of the policy and procedures to be followed when an emergency evacuation of an examination room is required

### 5.3. The role of the special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) or equivalent role:

- 5.3.1. Ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the emergency evacuation of a disabled candidate where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for the candidate
- 5.3.2. Ensure candidates are informed prior to examination of what will happen in an emergency evacuation

### 5.4. The role of the exam's office/officer

- 5.4.1. Ensure invigilators are trained in evacuation procedures and how incident must be recorded
- 5.4.2. Ensure candidates are informed prior to examination of what will happen in an emergency evacuation
- 5.4.3. Provide invigilators with a copy of the emergency evacuation procedure in every exam room
- 5.4.4. Provide a standard invigilator announcement for exam rooms which includes appropriate instructions for candidates about emergency procedures and what will happen if the fire alarm sounds
- 5.4.5. Provide an exam room incident log in every examination room
- 5.4.6. Liaise with relevant staff prior to each examination session where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- 5.4.7. Brief invigilators prior to each exam session where different procedures or assistance may be needed
- 5.4.8. Ensure that appropriate follow-up is undertaken after an emergency evacuation, reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken
- 5.4.9. Ensure a full report of the incident is produced and retained on file (JCQ ICE 25.4)
- 5.4.10. Ensure an online application for special consideration is submitted to the relevant awarding body where candidates have been disadvantaged (JCQ ICE 25.7)

### 5.5. The role of invigilators

- 5.5.1. By attending training sessions, ensure they understand what to do in the event of an emergency
- 5.5.2. Follow the actions required in the emergency evacuation procedure issued to every exam room
- 5.5.3. Confirm with the exams officer where different procedures may be needed for evacuation
- 5.5.4. Record details on the exam room incident log to support follow-up reporting to the awarding body

## 6. Recording details (see Roles and Responsibilities for the members of staff who will record these details)

### 6.1. As soon as practically possible and safe to do so, the actual start time of the interruption is recorded

6.2. As soon as approval has been given to restart the exam the actual time the exam(s) resumed is recorded

6.3. The actual finishing time(s) of the resumed exam(s) is recorded

6.4. Further details which may also be recorded include:

6.4.1. A report on candidate behaviour throughout the interruption/evacuation

6.4.2. A judgement on the impact on candidates after the interruption/evacuation