



Malpractice Policy (Exams) **2024/25**

| Approved/reviewed by | |
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| Governors | |
| Date of next review | Oct 2025 |

This plan is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Malpractice Policy (Exams)

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| Centre Name | Holly Lodge Girls' College |
| Centre Number | 34277 |
| Date policy first created | 18/10/2024 |
| Current policy approved by | Andrew Keen |
| Current policy reviewed by | Governors |
| Date of next review | 18/10/2025 |

Key staff involved in the policy

| Role | Name |
|------------------|---|
| Head of Centre | Andrew Keen |
| Senior leader(s) | Rob Downey, Richard Clift, Letitia Cassidy, Sarah Winter, Chris Finnegan, Alex Smyth, Lynne Reardon, Clare McGorian |
| Exams officer | Margaret Harper |

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any malpractice at Holly Lodge Girls' 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, and/or
- a breach of awarding body requirements regarding how a qualification should be delivered, and/or
- a failure to follow established procedures in relation to a qualification

which:

- gives rise to prejudice to candidates, and/or
- compromises public confidence in qualifications, and/or
- compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of a result or certificate, and/or
- 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' normally involves 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 (regardless of how the incident might be categorised, as described in SMPP, section 19). (SMPP 2)

Purpose of the policy

To confirm Holly Lodge Girls' College:

- has in place for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually, 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; it must also acknowledge the use of AI (eg. What AI is, when it may be used and how it should be acknowledged, the risks of using AI, what AI misuse is and how this will be treated as malpractice) (GR 5.3)

General principles

In accordance with the regulations Holly Lodge Girls' 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

Holly Lodge Girls' College has in place:

- Robust processes to prevent and identify malpractice, as outlined in section 3 of the JCQ document **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures**. (SMPP 4.3)
- This includes ensuring that 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 2024-2025; Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE) 2024-2025; Instructions for conducting coursework 2024-2025; Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments 2024-2025; Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2024-2025; A guide to the special consideration process 2024-2025; Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures 2024-2025 (this document); Plagiarism in Assessments; AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications; Post Results Services June 2024 and November 2024; A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes 2024-2025 (SMPP 3.3.1)

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

Candidates are briefed and advised to avoid committing malpractice in examinations/assessments by Rob Downey – Deputy Headteacher (Year group assembly at the beginning of the academic year/JCQ AI poster for students on Google Classroom), Margaret Harper – Exams Officer (relevant JCQ documents issued to candidates and also directed to school website), and subject teachers (when commencing NEA). This includes the use of AI e.g. what it is, the risks of using it, what AI misuse is, how this will be treated as malpractice, when it may be used and how it should be acknowledged by referencing the JCQ document 'Teachers & Assessors – AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications'.

AI use in assessments and how it should be acknowledged

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.

For those 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 resources 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: Information Sheet for Teachers, Senior Leader Presentation for Teachers, Poster for Students, Teacher Presentation for Students.

To avoid malpractice, work submitted by students for assessment must include references where appropriate. To facilitate this, each candidate should keep a detailed record of his/her own research, planning, resources etc. The record should include all the sources used, including books, websites and audio/visual resources. Guidance is given in the JCQ document Information for candidates – non-examination assessments:

<http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents>

AI misuse examples

Using AI to generate or modify content to evade plagiarism detection is deemed as malpractice. Examples of AI misuse include:

- copying or paraphrasing sections of AI-generated content so that the work is no longer the student's own
- copying or paraphrasing whole responses of AI-generated content
- using AI to complete parts of an assessment so that the work does not reflect the student's own work, analysis, evaluation, or calculations
- failing to acknowledge and reference the use of AI tools when they have been used as a source of information
- submitting work with intentionally incomplete or misleading references or bibliographies.

Work submitted for assessment must be the student's own efforts and must be their own work. Students are required to ensure that all submitted work is their own and valid for assessment purposes. If any sections of learner's work are reproduced directly from AI generated responses, those elements must be identified by the learner and they must understand that this does not allow them to demonstrate that they have independently met the marking criteria and therefore will not be rewarded.

Teachers and assessors must only accept work for assessment which they consider to be the students' own and where teachers have doubts about the authenticity of student work submitted for assessment (for example, they suspect that parts of it has been generated by AI, but this has not been acknowledged), they must investigate and take appropriate action.

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)

Suspected malpractice issues should be escalated to Margaret Harper – Exams Officer or Rob Downey (Deputy Headteacher) verbally as a matter of urgency and followed up by confirmation email/statement.

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 or an adult at risk and 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 does not need to 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 (the candidate or the 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)

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

Holly Lodge Girls' 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**