

Candidate Absence Policy

Oakbank School

Candidate Absence Policy

Centre name	Oakbank School
Centre number	51206
Date policy first created	27/03/2026
Current policy approved by	Rob Gerrard
Current policy reviewed by	Rob Gerrard
Date of review	11/03/2026
Date of next review	31/03/2027

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Rob Gerrard
Senior leader(s)	Katherine Reggler
Exams officer	Christina Pitcher
Other staff (if applicable)	Katherine Reggler - SENCo Nicole Smith - Attendance Officer & DDSL Stacy Thomas - Attendance Officer & DDSL

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that candidate absence from examinations at Oakbank School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to ICE and SC refer to the JCQ documents **Instructions for conducting examinations** and **A guide to the special consideration process**.

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements for candidates who are absent from an examination at Oakbank School.

An absent candidate may subsequently arrive once the exam is underway, becoming a late or very late arrival, at which point Oakbank School reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow a candidate who arrives after the start of the examination to enter the examination room and sit the examination. (See **Candidate Late Arrival Policy**)

Based upon the circumstances for the absence, and subject to the required conditions being met, an application for special consideration may also be made to the relevant awarding body.

1. Identifying and dealing with candidate absence

A candidate will be considered absent from an examination if:

- The candidate is not present when the register is taken before the candidates are invited to enter the room, under supervised conditions, to start their examination

Once a candidate is identified as absent from an examination, the following action will be taken:

- The candidate will be contacted as to their whereabouts and as far as possible arrangements made to ensure their immediate arrival
- If the candidate is uncontactable, parents to be contacted.

If a candidate fails to sit an examination, the following action is taken:

- A confirmed candidate absence is clearly recorded on the attendance register which is sent to the awarding body/examiner
- The candidate absence is noted on the seating plan by crossing through the candidate details

2. Roles and responsibilities

Overview

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with candidate absence once it has been identified:

- Nicole Smith - Attendance Officer
- Stacy Thomas - Attendance Officer
- Katherine Reggler - SENDCo (Assistant Headteacher)
- Gareth Mills - Head of Year 11 (Assistant Headteacher)
- Christina Pitcher - Exams Officer

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with candidates who are persistently absent from examinations:

- Nicole Smith - Attendance Officer
- Stacy Thomas - Attendance Officer
- Katherine Reggler - SENDCo (Assistant Headteacher)
- Gareth Mills - Head of Year 11 (Assistant Headteacher)

The role of invigilators

Invigilators will:

- Be informed of the process for dealing with absent candidates through training
- Ensure that absent candidates are clearly indicated on the attendance register (ICE 22.4)

Additional responsibilities:

- Ensure the Exams Officer is made aware of any possible absences

The role of candidates

Candidates will be:

- Re-charged any relevant entry fees for unauthorised absence from examinations

Additional responsibilities:

- Not Applicable

3. Special consideration

At Oakbank School if a candidate is absent from a timetabled written examination for an acceptable reason, the candidate may be eligible for special consideration. This is where an adjustment may be made to the candidate's grade by the awarding body, providing the following conditions are met:

- The examination is in the candidate's terminal exam series (SC 4.2)
- The candidate has completed or will be able to complete the required percentage of the assessment to meet the minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence (SC 4.5)
- The application for special consideration can be supported by appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team (SC 6)

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with special consideration requests and applications:

- Christina Pitcher - Exams Officer
- Katherine Reggler - SENDCo (Assistant Headteacher)

Changes 2024/2025

(Updated) Under heading **Special Consideration**: References to sections of SC 4 where these have been changed in SC 2024-2025.

Centre-specific changes