

Ref: Exam Contingency Plan
Approved by Governors: June 2019
Reviewer: Examinations Manager/June 2020

EXAMS CONTINGENCY PLAN/POLICY



Governing Body Approval

Policy approved by:

_____ (NAME)
_____ (SIGNATURE)
_____ (GOVERNOR POSITION)
_____ (DATE)

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Statement of intent

The Examination Contingency Plan is in place to ensure a consistent and effective response in the event of major disruption to the examination system at Blessed Trinity RC College.

Blessed Trinity RC College will implement this plan if serious interference to the examination system is experienced, affecting significant numbers of candidates across several awarding bodies, such as widespread illness, travel disruption, bad weather or power failures.

In the occurrence of such an event, any actions taken will be subject to the advice of the official agencies dealing with the specific circumstances being faced, for instance the police.

The priority when implementing this plan will be to maintain the following three principles:

- Deliver assessments to published timetables
- Deliver results to published timetables
- Comply with regulatory requirements in relation to assessment, marking and standards

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1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to legislation in accordance with examination awarding bodies and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).
- 1.2. All staff will ensure that they adhere to and implement the requirements of any equality legislation.

2. Responsibilities of the school

- 2.1. It is the responsibility of Blessed Trinity RC College to communicate with pupils, parents and carers, ensuring that they are made aware of any issues that arise.
- 2.2. The school is responsible for preparing all pupils for examinations.
- 2.3. Blessed Trinity RC College will ensure that examinations and assessments are conducted under the conditions prescribed by awarding bodies.
- 2.4. The school is responsible for liaising with awarding bodies in the event of an issue concerning examinations arising.
- 2.5. Blessed Trinity RC College will offer a post results service and ensure that pupils are given the details of this service.
- 2.6. It is the responsibility of the school to explore the opportunities for alternative arrangements if the centre cannot open for examinations, and the school will agree such arrangements with the relevant awarding bodies prior to the event.
- 2.7. It is the responsibility of the headteacher to appoint an appropriate examination officer within the school, whose role it is to organise and manage all examinations.
- 2.8. Blessed Trinity RC College will ensure that the examination officer undertakes annual data collection exercises in order to collate information on qualifications.
- 2.9. The headteacher and examination officer will create an annual exam plan for the school, which identifies essential key tasks, dates and deadlines.
- 2.10. It is Blessed Trinity RC College's responsibility to ensure that assessment materials and candidates' work are stored under secure conditions.
- 2.11. The examination officer is responsible for ensuring that the school's internal assessment marks and samples of candidates' work is submitted to awarding bodies, as well as external moderators.
- 2.12. The SENCO is responsible for approving access arrangements and collating evidence to support the need for special requirements.

3. Absence of examination officer

- 3.1. In the absence of the examination officer during peak examination periods, the necessary tasks will be undertaken by the headteacher and the senior leadership team (SLT).
- 3.2. The SLT will appoint a 'deputy' to cover a role or task.
- 3.3. Where cover for the role of examination officer is unavailable, the examination officer of another school can be approached to provide assistance.
- 3.4. The school will endeavour to brief all candidates on exam timetables and the relevant awarding body's information.
- 3.5. In the event that the examination officer experiences an extended absence at key points in the examination cycle, annual data collection exercises to collate information on qualifications will be undertaken by the SLT.
- 3.6. All assessment related procedures and tasks undertaken in the absence of the examination officer will be documented, in order to ensure that all information held by the examination officer is kept up-to-date.

4. Centre is unable to open

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- 4.1. In the event that Blessed Trinity RC College is unable to open as normal for scheduled examinations, the examinations officer will inform each awarding body which examinations are due to be taken as soon as possible.
- 4.2. The headteacher is ultimately responsible for deciding whether it is safe for the school to open.
- 4.3. When considering whether the school will open as normal, the headteacher will take advice, or follow instructions, from relevant local and national agencies.
- 4.4. In the event that the school is unable to open, where possible, Blessed Trinity RC College will open for examinations and examination candidates only.
- 4.5. The school will use alternative venues in agreement with relevant awarding bodies, such as sharing facilities with another school.
- 4.6. Where possible, Blessed Trinity RC College will offer candidates an opportunity to sit any examinations missed at the next available exam series.
- 4.7. In the event of partial or whole exam disruption, the school will apply to awarding bodies for special consideration for candidates who were affected by the disruption.
- 4.8. Where possible, Blessed Trinity RC College will offer candidates an opportunity to sit any examinations missed at the next available series.

5. Disruption of teaching time

- 5.1. Where there is disruption to teaching time, or pupils do not receive the provision of normal teaching and learning, it is Blessed Trinity RC College's responsibility to ensure that pupils are prepared for the examinations as usual.
- 5.2. During the extended absence of teaching staff at key points in the exam cycle, the SLT will provide the examination officer with details of estimated and final entries for exams.
- 5.3. In the absence of the necessary teaching staff, the SLT will provide the examination officer with estimated grades and coursework marks, as well as ensuring that coursework samples are transmitted to moderators.
- 5.4. The school will communicate with parents, carers and pupils about the potential for disruption to teaching time and Blessed Trinity RC College's plans to address this problem.
- 5.5. The teaching provision for pupils who will be facing examinations shortly will be priority.
- 5.6. Where appropriate, the school will advise pupils to sit examinations in the next available series.
- 5.7. During major disruption, Blessed Trinity RC College will strive to continue teaching all pupils, either through an alternative method of learning or at a different venue.

6. Distribution of examination papers

- 6.1. If there is disruption to the distribution of exam papers to test centres in advance of examinations, it is the examination officer's responsibility to communicate with awarding bodies to organise alternative delivery of exam papers.
- 6.2. Blessed Trinity RC College will always source a reliable courier for the delivery of examination papers, as well as organise an alternative service for the delivery of hard copies.
- 6.3. Where possible, the relevant awarding body will provide the school with electronic access to examination papers via a secure external network.

Examination papers will be faxed to Blessed Trinity RC College if electronic transfer is not possible. It is the responsibility of the examination officer to ensure that copies are received, collated and stored under secure conditions.

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- 6.4. Blessed Trinity RC College will strive to ensure that students are able to proceed with taking examinations without having to reschedule examinations.

7. Candidate unable to take examination

- 7.1. When a pupil is unable to attend the school in order to complete an examination as normal, it is the responsibility of the school to communicate with the relevant awarding body to make them aware of the issue.
- 7.2. Blessed Trinity RC College will effectively and efficiently communicate with parents, carers and pupils regarding solutions to the problem.
- 7.3. Blessed Trinity RC College will utilise the school's own transport facilities in order to transport candidates who would otherwise be unable to attend the examination.
- 7.4. It is the examination officer's responsibility to liaise with pupils involved to identify whether the examination can be sat at an alternative venue, in agreement with the relevant awarding bodies.
- 7.5. The pupils involved will be given the opportunity to sit any examinations missed at the next available series.
- 7.6. Where appropriate, the examination officer will apply to awarding bodies for special consideration for pupils.

Pupils are only eligible for special consideration if they have been fully prepared, and have covered the whole course, but their performance during the examination is affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control.

If a pupil chooses not to sit an examination for other reasons, they should be aware that special consideration rules will not apply.

- 7.7. Latecomers will be permitted to take their examination, provided that they are within the awarding body's regulations.

8. Invigilators

- 8.1. Blessed Trinity RC College will ensure that all invigilators who are being used are appropriately trained and suitable for the job.
- 8.2. The examination officer will endeavour to confirm the full attendance of invigilators prior to the examination date.
- 8.3. It is the examination officer's responsibility to maintain a panel of suitable invigilators which can be called upon in the event of a shortfall.
- 8.4. Provisional timetables and estimated entry information will be used to determine the number of invigilators required.
- 8.5. Where there is a shortage of invigilators, the examination officer and SLT team will cover any absences.
- 8.6. It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that recruitment and training of invigilators is completed well in advance of examination dates.
- 8.7. A review of available invigilators will be conducted prior to the examination period, in which invigilators' availability for the next exam series will be confirmed, allowing time for any amendments or training.

9. Examination room

- 9.1. The examination officer will ensure that there are a sufficient number of rooms available during peak exam periods.

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- 9.2. It is the responsibility of the examination officer to ensure that all rooms utilised for examinations are appropriate, such as lack of noise, large enough to allow for a desk per pupil and IT facilities where necessary.
- 9.3. Rooms will be suitably allocated and timetabled well in advance.
- 9.4. In the event of an emergency, the theatre will be utilised for examination purposes.
- 9.5. The examination officer will ensure that appropriate rooms are arranged in advance for pupils sitting examinations who have special requirements and adjustments.
- 9.6. Where necessary, pupils will be moved from normal classrooms to allow candidates to sit examinations in accordance with the timetable.

10. IT systems

- 10.1. In the event that IT systems fail during peak examination periods, the relevant awarding bodies will be informed immediately.
- 10.2. If systems fail at the final entry deadline, the relevant awarding bodies will be informed and an extension to the deadline will be requested.
- 10.3. Blessed Trinity RC College will ensure that during the exam cycle there will be an ICT team on standby in order to repair systems in the event of failure or damage.
- 10.4. Where a failure of IT systems results in serious disruption of the examination, special consideration can be applied for.
- 10.5. In the event of IT systems failing during the distribution of candidate results, Blessed Trinity RC College will advise of alternative sites where results can be obtained.

11. Transportation of completed scripts

- 11.1. If there is a delay in the normal collection and transportation arrangements for completed examination scripts, Blessed Trinity RC College will seek advice from the relevant awarding bodies and collection agencies.
- 11.2. Blessed Trinity RC College will not make arrangements for the transportation of completed examination papers without the prior approval of the relevant awarding bodies.
- 11.3. The school will ensure that completed examination papers are stored securely, with limited personnel access, until collection.
- 11.4. In the event of disruption of the transportation of completed exam scripts, it is the responsibility of the examination officer to communicate continuously with the relevant awarding bodies throughout the incident, until the issue is appropriately resolved.
- 11.5. Blessed Trinity RC College will always aim for scripts to be collected and delivered to awarding bodies without delay.

12. Assessment evidence is unavailable

- 12.1. The following procedure should be followed in the event of large scale damage to, or destruction of, completed examination scripts or assessment evidence before it has been marked.
- 12.2. It is the responsibility of the headteacher to immediately inform the relevant awarding bodies of the issue.
- 12.3. The headteacher or examinations officer will discuss the possible courses of action with the pupil involved and their parent/carer.
- 12.4. Where possible, the awarding body will generate candidate marks for the affected assessments based on other appropriate evidence of the candidate's achievement, such as other coursework.
- 12.5. Whether evidence is classed as 'appropriate' is defined by the awarding body in consultation with the regulators.

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- 12.6. Where appropriate, the candidate will be given the opportunity to retake the assessment that has been affected at a subsequent assessment window.
- 12.7. Blessed Trinity RC College will seek further advice from the relevant awarding body involved in the incident.

13. Disruption in the marking schedule

- 13.1. If the examination board markers are unable to mark examination scripts, resulting in a risk to the delivery of results by scheduled dates, the awarding bodies will re-allocate scripts to available markers.
- 13.2. It is the awarding body's responsibility to recruit, train or re-standardise qualified new markers in order to meet the scheduled result dates.
- 13.3. The awarding body is responsible for prioritising the marking of examination scripts based on results dates, UCAS deadlines and qualifications that require further study.

14. The results schedule

- 14.1. Blessed Trinity RC College will always act with the aim of issuing results to pupils on the scheduled dates and will continuously communicate with awarding bodies to ensure the dates are met.
- 14.2. If awarding bodies face delays in meeting the planned schedule for issuing results, they will establish priorities for processing results in line with UCAS and Central Applications Office deadlines.
- 14.3. In the case of a disruption to the issuing of results, the awarding body will liaise with relevant organisations regarding individual pupil's progression to further and higher education.
- 14.4. Blessed Trinity RC College will ensure that they keep continuous communication with awarding bodies and are kept up-to-date regarding the progress of the marking system, in order to limit the potential damage of result deadlines not being met.

15. Distributing results

- 15.1. Blessed Trinity RC College is committed to ensuring that candidates receive their examination results in a timely manner.
- 15.2. Blessed Trinity RC College will make arrangements to access results at alternative premises in the event that the school is unable to access or manage the distribution of results to candidates.
- 15.3. If the school is unable to open to distribute examination results, Blessed Trinity RC College will share facilities with other institutes, where possible.
- 15.4. The examination officer will contact awarding bodies regarding alternative arrangements for exam results in order to gain prior approval.
- 15.5. Where possible, Blessed Trinity RC College will provide pupils access to receiving results online.

16. Monitoring and review

- 16.1. This policy will be reviewed every year by the headteacher and examinations officer.
- 16.2. Throughout the year, this policy will be monitored, with any information gathered through the implementation of the policy being used to further develop and progress the contingency plan.

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Exam Day Programme

Before exams:
Senior invigilators are required to arrive early.
All invigilators are briefed.
Anyone acting as an oral language modifier, practical assistant, prompter, reader, scribe or sign language interpreter is briefed.
Seating plans are organised and printed.
Content of exam room boxes is updated (pencils, pens, calculators etc.).
Invigilators will complete an Exam Room Checklist for each room.
Emergency communications equipment is checked in each room.
All access arrangements in place are confirmed.
Exam papers are checked to ensure they are correct and are available but secure.
Number of required answer books is checked.
Invigilators will be informed of any timetable variations.
After exams:
It will be arranged for completed exam scripts to be collected and checked against the attendance register.
Envelopes for sending completed exam scripts for marking are prepared.
Parcelforce administration is completed.
Exam scripts which are stored overnight are made secure.
Paperwork for malpractice, late arrivals and special considerations is completed.
Preparation for the next day:
Exam papers for the following day are checked and sorted.
Seating plans for the following day are prepared.
The site manager is briefed about the requirements for the next exam.
Invigilators are thanked for their service.
It is confirmed with invigilators what time they are required the following day.