



# **Complaints Policy (Exams)**

Hanham Woods Academy

## Complaints Policy (Exams)

Centre name	Hanham Woods Academy
Centre number	50439
Date policy first created	14/11/2023
Current policy approved by	Stephen O'Callaghan
Current policy reviewed by	Sara Partridge
Date of review	19/11/2024
Date of next review	30/11/2025

### Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Stephen O'Callaghan
Senior leader(s)	Rebecca Tushingam Josh Hocking
Exams officer	Sara Partridge
Other staff (if applicable)	n/a

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any complaints at Hanham Woods Academy are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

## Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements for complaints at Hanham Woods Academy and confirms compliance with JCQ's **General Regulations for Approved Centres** (5.3, 5.8) in drawing to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers our written complaints policy which covers general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification and our internal appeals procedure.

## Grounds for complaint

A candidate (or their/parent/carers) at Hanham Woods Academy may make a complaint on the grounds below (This is not an exhaustive list).

### Teaching and Learning

- Non-subject specialist teacher without adequate training/subject matter expertise utilised on a long-term basis
- Teacher lacking knowledge of new specification/incorrect core content studied/taught
- Core content not adequately covered
- Inadequate feedback for a candidate following assessment(s)
- Pre-release/advance material/set task issued by the awarding body not provided on time to an examination candidate
- The taking of an assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not conducted according to the JCQ/awarding body instructions
- Candidate not informed of their centre assessed mark prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not informed of their centre assessed mark in sufficient time to request/appeal a review of marking prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not given sufficient time to review materials to make a decision whether to request a review of the centre assessed mark
- Candidate unhappy with internal assessment decision (complainant to refer to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure

Additional grounds for complaint relating to teaching and learning:

n/a

### Access arrangements and special consideration

- Candidate not assessed by the centre's appointed assessor
- Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding their access arrangements
- Candidate did not consent to record their personal data online (by the non-acquisition of a completed **candidate personal data consent form**)
- Candidate not informed/adequately informed of the arrangement(s) in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangement(s) would not apply

- Examination information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it
- Adapted equipment/assistive technology put in place failed during examination/assessment
- Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an examination/assessment
- Appropriate arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an examination/assessment as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment
- Candidate unhappy with centre decision relating to access arrangements or special consideration (complainant to refer to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure

Additional grounds for complaint relating to access arrangements:

n/a

### **Entries**

- Failure to clearly explain a decision of early entry for a qualification to candidate (or parent/carer)
- Candidate not entered/entered late (incurring a late entry fee) for a required examination/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong examination/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong tier of entry

Additional grounds for complaint relating to examination entries:

n/a

### **Conducting examinations**

- Failure to adequately brief candidate on examination timetable/regulations prior to examination/assessment taking place
- Room in which assessment held did not provide candidate with appropriate conditions for taking the examination
- Inadequate invigilation in examination room
- Failure to conduct the examination according to the regulations
- Online system failed during (on-screen) examination/assessment
- Disruption during the examination/assessment
- Alleged, suspected or actual malpractice incident not investigated/reported
- Failure to inform/update candidate on the accepted/rejected outcome of a special consideration application if provided by awarding body

Additional grounds for complaint relating to the conducting of examinations:

n/a

### **Results and Post-Results**

- Before examinations, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the availability of senior members of centre staff after the publication of results
- Candidate not having access to a member of senior staff after the publication of results to discuss/make a decision on the submission of a results review/enquiry
- Candidate request for return of work after moderation and work not available/disposed of earlier than allowed in the regulations
- Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a result (complainant to refer via exams officer to awarding body **post-results services**)
- Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal (complainant to refer to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure
- Centre applied for the wrong post-results service/for the wrong script for a candidate
- Centre missed awarding body deadline to apply for a post-results service
- Centre applied for a post-results service for a candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission

Additional grounds for complaint relating to results and post-results:

n/a

## **Raising a concern/complaint**

If a candidate (or parent/carer) has a general concern or complaint about the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification, Hanham Woods Academy encourages an informal resolution in the first instance.

This can be undertaken by:

- Linda Hall, our complaints coordinator, via [linda.hall@clf.uk](mailto:linda.hall@clf.uk) detailing your concerns and the name of your child.

The complaints coordinator will arrange for an appropriate member of the exams team to contact you and discuss your concern and attempt to resolve it informally

If a concern or complaint fails to be resolved informally, the candidate (or parent/carer) is then at liberty to make a formal complaint.

## **How to make a formal complaint**

All documentation relating to the submission of a formal complaint is available from, and should be returned to:

- Linda Hall

Formal complaints will be logged and acknowledged within:

- refer to <https://hanhamwoodsacademy.clf.uk/policies> for timescales

To make a formal complaint, candidates (or parents/carers) must:

- The Academy outlines how to make a formal complaint. a complaints and appeals form is provided below, however you don't need to use this form to lodge a complaint.

All complaints are managed by the complaints coordinator (details above).

<https://hanhamwoodsacademy.clf.uk/policies/>

### **How a formal complaint is investigated**

The Academy complaints policy outlines the process that will be followed for a stage 1 formal complaint. Link above.

The findings and conclusion of any investigation will be provided to the complainant within:

- refer to <https://hanhamwoodsacademy.clf.uk/policies/> for timescales

### **Internal appeals procedure**

Following the outcome, if the complainant remains dissatisfied and believes there are clear grounds, an appeal can be submitted.

To submit an appeal, candidates (or parents/carers) must:

- the outcome of the stage 1 appeal will provide information on how to lodge an appeal and can also be found in the Academy complaints policy under stage 2 formal complaint. Link above.

Appeals will be logged and acknowledged within:

- refer to <https://hanhamwoodsacademy.clf.uk/policies/> for timescales.

The appeal will be referred to:

- The Chair of Academy Council or nominated Councillor will convene a Complaints Panel of three people who have not been involved in previously in consideration of the complaint.

It will be the responsibility of The Chair of the Complaints Panel to inform the appellant of the final conclusion in accordance with the internal appeals procedure.

Additional details on the internal appeals process:

n/a

## **Changes 2024/2025**

(Changed) Under heading **Purpose of the policy:** (From) The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements for complaints at Hanham Woods Academy and confirms compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres (sections 5.3, 5.8) in drawing to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers its written complaints policy which covers general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification. (To) The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements for complaints at Hanham Woods Academy and confirms compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres (5.3, 5.8) in drawing to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers our written complaints policy which covers general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification and our internal appeals procedure.

## **Centre-specific changes**

Upon review, no centre specific changes were applicable.