

Malpractice Procedure 2024/25



What is malpractice and maladministration?

'Malpractice' and 'maladministration' are related concepts. They involve a failure to follow the rules of an examination or assessment. This procedure uses the word 'malpractice' to cover both 'malpractice' and 'maladministration' and **according to JCQ** it means "any act, default or practice which is:

- a breach of the Regulations
- a breach of awarding body requirements regarding how a qualification should be delivered
- a failure to follow established procedures in relation to a qualification which:
 - gives rise to prejudice to candidates
 - compromises public confidence in qualifications
 - compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of a result or certificate
 - damages the authority, reputation or credibility of any awarding body or centre or any officer, employee or agent of any awarding body or centre.

Malpractice can occur in a range of circumstances:

- Intentional – incidents are carried out purposely with the aim to give an unfair advantage in an exam or assessment.
- Unintentional – incidents arise due to a lack of awareness, carelessness or forgetfulness in applying regulations.
- Environmental – incidents occur as a result of circumstances which are beyond the control of the people involved.

Candidate malpractice

'Candidate malpractice' means 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

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 practical assistant, a prompter, a reader or a scribe.

Purpose of the procedure

To confirm The Gilberd School:

- has in place a written malpractice procedure 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 also acknowledges the use and risks of AI.

The process

In accordance with the regulations The Gilberd School will:

- Take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after examinations have taken place.
- 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.
- 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.

Preventing Malpractice

The Gilberd School has in place:

- Robust processes to prevent and identify malpractice, as outlined in section 3 of the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures.
- This includes ensuring that all 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 ;
 - Plagiarism in Assessments;
 - AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications;
 - A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes 2024-2025 .

Informing and advising candidates

The candidates are informed in lessons and in assemblies of what Malpractice is and how it can affect them in line with current JCQ policy guidance.

For any assessments that could be affected by the use of AI, teaching staff will inform the candidates of the regulations of if/when AI technology can be used, and also the consequences of its misuse. Staff have been directed towards the AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications guidance. However, students complete the majority of their exams and a large number of other assessments under close staff supervision with limited access to unauthorised materials and no permitted access to the internet. The delivery of these assessments should be unaffected by developments in AI tools as students are not able to use such tools when completing these assessments.

Candidates are informed of the 'Warning to Candidates' and 'Unauthorised Items' posters which are also displayed prominently outside all exam rooms. These are displayed on the school website and within the Student Exams Booklet. Students are rehearsed in the JCQ regulations as Year 10 mock exams and two sets of Year 11 mocks exams prior to the summer exam series comply with the regulations.

Detailed invigilators' announcements at the beginning of written examinations also outline what can and cannot be done in the exam environment. This is also read out at the beginning of every mock exam from Year 10 to Year 11.

Identification and reporting of malpractice

Any member of staff at The Gilberd School can report malpractice using the appropriate channels.

Reporting suspected malpractice to the awarding body

- All allegations of malpractice are immediately reported to the head of centre by the Deputy Headteacher with oversight of exams or the exams officer. They 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.
- The head of centre will ensure that where a candidate who is a child/vulnerable adult is the subject of a malpractice investigation, the candidate's parent/carer/ appropriate adult is kept informed of the progress of the investigation.
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of candidate malpractice and Form JCQ/M2 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of suspected staff malpractice/maladministration.
- Malpractice by a candidate discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-exam assessment component prior to the candidate signing the declaration of authentication need not 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.
- If, in the view of the investigator, there is sufficient evidence to implicate an individual in malpractice, that individual (a candidate or a member of staff) will be informed of the rights of accused individuals.
- 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.
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used when reporting candidate cases; for centre staff, form JCQ/M3 will be used.

- 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.

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.

Appeals against decisions made in cases of malpractice

The Gilberd School 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.

Responsibilities

Head of centre

- notify the appropriate awarding body immediately of all alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice.
- review and sign any Malpractice cases prior to submission.
- ensure that where a candidate who is a child/vulnerable adult is the subject of a malpractice investigation, the candidate's parent/carer/ appropriate adult is kept informed of the progress of the investigation.
- pass on details of any sanctions and action in cases where this is indicated.

Senior Leaders

- Ensure that centre staff are aware of the requirement to adhere to the examinations regulations, instances that class as Malpractice and the Malpractice process.

Exams Office

- Complete the administrative process for any cases of Suspected Malpractice.
- Identify and follow the awarding body's administrative process for malpractice.
- Retain the records of any cases of Malpractice.