



KING EDWARD VI CAMP HILL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

In pursuit of educational excellence for all

Emergency Policy-for dealing with an emergency evacuation of the examination room

<i>Responsible Board</i>	Foundation Board & Academy Trust Board
<i>Policy Officer</i>	PAB/SN
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<i>Last Review Date</i>	January 2023
<i>Next Review Date</i>	February 2024

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that emergency evacuation from examination rooms at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to ICE refer to the JCQ publication **Instructions for conducting examinations**.

Introduction

An emergency evacuation is required where it is unsafe for candidates to remain in the examination room. This might include a fire, the fire alarm sounding to warn of fire, bomb alert or other serious threat.

In exceptional situations, where candidates might be severely disadvantaged or distressed by remaining in the room, the emergency evacuation procedure may also need to be followed. This might include situations where there is severe disruption in the examination room, serious illness of a candidate or invigilator or similarly serious incidents.

As each incident may be different, advice will be sought (if applicable) from the relevant awarding body as soon as it is safe to do so, particularly where there is concern about the security of the examination(s) (ICE 25.4)

Where candidates are unable to return to the building to complete the examination, the relevant awarding body will be contacted immediately for advice. The awarding bodies have procedures in place to ensure that candidates are not disadvantaged where they are unable to complete the examination due to circumstances beyond their control (ICE 25.5)

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys for dealing with an emergency evacuation of an examination room by defining staff roles and responsibilities and confirming the emergency evacuation procedure.

This policy ensures compliance with JCQ regulations (ICE 25.2) which state that centres must have a written policy for dealing with emergency evacuation of the examination room which is subject to inspection by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service.

1. Emergency evacuation procedure

Actions taken in the event of an emergency evacuation of the examination room

At King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys, the following actions (in accordance with ICE 25.3) are taken if an examination room has to be evacuated:

- Candidates are instructed to stop writing and to close their answer booklet(s) and put them face downwards. They are instructed to leave all question papers and scripts in the examination room and not to remove anything, even their stationery.
- The attendance register is collected (in order to ensure all candidates are present)
- The examination room is evacuated in line with the instructions given by the appropriate authority or as stated below. Candidates are instructed to leave the room in silence and must remain silent throughout the whole process.
- Candidates are supervised as closely as possible while they are out of the examination room so that there is no discussion about the examination.
- The time of the interruption is noted and how long it lasted
- Candidates are allowed the remainder of the working time set for the examination once it resumes.
- If there are only a few candidates, the possibility is considered of taking the candidates (with question papers and scripts collected by the invigilator) to another place to finish the examination.
- A full report is made of the incident and of the actions taken, and sent to the relevant awarding body

In the event of a fire alarm, invigilators are trained to

- Evacuate all candidates to the grass verge in front of the Headmaster's office. Path taken will be past the school reception and onto the grass in front of the Headmaster's office. The examination officer will be on hand, as will members of the senior management team and if possible Heads of Year to help supervise the candidates and ensure they are silent.

- When/if allowed to return to the examination room, invigilators allow candidates time to settle down, reminding them they are still under formal examination conditions and that they must not open their answer booklets until instructed to do so
- Invigilators announce clearly to candidates when they may begin and how much time they have (the examination will formally restart at this point)
- Invigilators record the time the examination(s) restarted and amend the displayed finishing time(s) for all candidates to see

Invigilators are trained to record as much detail on the exam room incident log (which is in their invigilation booklet) when able to do so (ensuring candidates are continually supervised and giving complete attention to this duty at all times) and to ensure the exams officer is fully briefed at the end of the examination(s) to enable a full report to be submitted to the awarding body/bodies

Where not allowed to return to the examination room, or the decision is made by the appropriate authority that the examination(s) cannot be resumed, the centre's Exam Contingency Plan will be invoked and invigilators/candidates briefed accordingly at the time

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the head of centre

Ensure that the emergency evacuation policy for examinations is fit for purpose and complies with relevant health and safety regulation. Ensure that any instructions from relevant local or national agencies are referenced and followed where applicable (ICE 25.1)

The role of the senior leader

Where responsible for the centre-wide emergency evacuation procedure, ensure that all staff and appointed fire marshals are aware of the policy and procedures to be followed when an emergency evacuation of an examination room is required

The role of the Special educational needs coordinator (SENCo)

Ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the emergency evacuation of a disabled candidate from an examination room where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for the candidate.

Ensure that the candidate is informed prior to taking their examinations of what will happen in the event of an emergency evacuation

The role of the exams office/officer

- Ensure that invigilators are trained in emergency evacuation procedures and how an incident and actions taken must be recorded
- Ensure that candidates are briefed prior to examinations taking place, on what will happen in the event of an emergency in the examination room
- Provide invigilators with a copy of the emergency evacuation procedure in every room
- Provide a standard invigilator announcement for each exam room which includes appropriate instructions for candidates about emergency procedures and what will happen if the fire alarm sounds
- Provide an exam room incident log to every invigilator
- Liaise with relevant staff prior to each examination session where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- Brief invigilators prior to each examination session where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- Ensure that appropriate follow-up is undertaken after an emergency evacuation, reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken through application of the **special consideration** process where applicable (in cases where a group of candidates have been disadvantaged by a particular event)

The role of invigilators

- By attending training and/or update sessions, ensure they understand what to do in the event of an emergency in the examination room

- Follow the actions required in the emergency evacuation procedure issued to them for every examination room
- Confirm with the exams officer, where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate they are invigilating
- Record details on the exam room incident log to support follow-up reporting to the awarding body by the exams officer (see below)

Recording details

As soon as practically possible and safe to do so, the following details will be recorded (see **Roles and Responsibilities** for the members of staff who will record these details):

- The actual time of the start of the interruption
- The actions taken
- The actual time the exam(s) resumed
- The actual finishing time(s) of the resumed exam(s)

Further details which may also be recorded include:

- A report on candidate behaviour throughout the interruption/evacuation
- A judgement on the impact on candidates after the interruption/evacuation