



William Henry Smith
School and Sixth Form

Malpractice Policy (Exams)

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Centre name	William Henry Smith School & 6th Form
Centre number	37309
Date policy first created	30/10/2025
Current policy approved by	Karl Adamski
Current policy reviewed by	Vanessa Talbot
Date of review	30/10/2025
Date of next review	30/10/2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Karl Adamski
Senior leader(s)	Damien Talbot Leanne Clarke Tom Gilbody Rachael Johnson Sarah Kaler Laura Robinson
Exams officer	Vanessa Talbot
Other staff (if applicable)	

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any malpractice at William Henry Smith School & 6th Form is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in the policy to **GR** and **SMPP** relate to relevant sections of the current JCQ documents **General Regulations for Approved Centres** and **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures**.

Introduction

What are malpractice and maladministration?

'Malpractice' and 'maladministration' are distinct but related concepts, the common theme being that they involve a failure to follow the rules of an examination or assessment. This policy and procedure uses the word 'malpractice' to cover both 'malpractice' and 'maladministration' and it means any act, default or practice which is:

- a breach of the Regulations, and/or
- a breach of awarding body requirements regarding how a qualification should be delivered, and/or
- a failure to follow established procedures in relation to a qualification

which:

- gives rise to prejudice to candidates, and/or
- compromises public confidence in qualifications, and/or
- compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of a result or certificate, and/or
- damages the authority, reputation or credibility of any awarding body or centre or any officer, employee or agent of any awarding body or centre (SMPP 1)

Candidate malpractice

'Candidate malpractice' normally involves 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 completion of any examination. (SMPP 2)

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 Communication Professional, a Language Modifier, a practical assistant, a prompter, a reader or a scribe (SMPP 2)

Centre malpractice

'Centre malpractice' normally involves malpractice where there is an element of systemic failure, a breach in policies or widespread malpractice such that a centre-level sanction is appropriate (SMPP 2)

Suspected malpractice

For the purposes of this document, suspected malpractice means all alleged or suspected incidents of malpractice (regardless of how the incident might be categorised, as described in SMPP, section 1.9). (SMPP 2)

Purpose of the policy

To confirm William Henry Smith School & 6th Form:

- has in place for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually, a written malpractice policy which covers all qualifications delivered by the centre detailing 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 must also acknowledge the use

of AI (e.g. what AI is, when it may be used and how it should be acknowledged, the risks of using AI, what AI misuse is and how this will be treated as malpractice) (GR 5.3)

General principles

In accordance with the regulations William Henry Smith School & 6th Form will:

- take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after assessments have taken place (GR 5.11)
- 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 (GR 5.11)
- as required by an awarding body, gather evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) in accordance with the current JCQ document **Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures** and provide such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require (GR 5.11)

Preventing malpractice

William Henry Smith School & 6th Form has in place:

- Robust processes to prevent and identify malpractice, as outlined in section 3 of the JCQ document **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures**. (SMPP 4.3)
- This includes ensuring that 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 2025-2026
 - Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE) 2025-2026
 - Instructions for conducting coursework 2025-2026
 - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments 2025-2026
 - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2025-2026
 - A guide to the special consideration process 2025-2026
 - Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures 2025-2026 (this document)
 - Plagiarism in Assessments
 - AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications
 - Post Results Services June 2025 and November 2025
 - A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes 2025-2026
 - Guidance for centres on cyber security

(SMPP 3.2)

Additional information:

n/a

Informing and advising candidates how to avoid committing malpractice in examinations/assessments

Details can be found in the candidates handbook, from teachers and in letters sent home

AI use in assessments

With reference to the JCQ guidance for Teachers & Assessors - AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications: Students complete the majority of their exams and a large number of other assessments under close staff supervision with limited access to authorised materials and no permitted access to the internet. The delivery of these assessments should be unaffected by developments in AI tools as students must not be able to use such tools when completing these assessments, although care must be taken when a student is allowed to use a laptop or similar device for exams, to ensure they have no access to AI tools. There are some assessments in which access to the internet is permitted in the preparatory, research or production stages. The majority of these assessments will be Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs), coursework and internal assessments for General Qualifications (GQs) and Vocational & Technical Qualifications (VTQs). JCQ's guidance which is designed to help students and teachers to complete NEAs, coursework and other internal assessments successfully is followed in relation to these assessments.

Definition of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to any technology capable of generating, analyzing, or assisting in creating content, including but not limited to:

- Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Bard).
- Automated grading systems.
- Adaptive learning platforms.

- **Permitted Use**

- **Controlled Exams**

- AI tools must not be used during any invigilated or controlled examination unless explicitly authorized by the awarding body for accessibility purposes.

- **Coursework and Non-Exam Assessments**

- AI may be used for:

- o Research assistance (e.g., summarizing sources).
 - o Grammar and spelling checks.
 - o Idea generation for planning work.

- **Conditions:**

- AI use must be declared.

- AI-generated content must not be submitted as original work.

Risks Associated with AI Use

Plagiarism and Misrepresentation: AI-generated content may lead to unintentional plagiarism or submission of work that is not the student's own.

Bias and Inaccuracy: AI tools can produce biased or factually incorrect information, which may compromise academic standards.

Over-Reliance: Excessive dependence on AI can hinder the development of critical thinking and independent research skills.

Data Privacy: Using AI platforms may involve sharing personal or sensitive data, which could breach GDPR or centre data protection policies.

Detection and Penalties: Undeclared AI use may be detected by awarding bodies and result in malpractice sanctions.

AI Misuse: Classification and Handling as Malpractice

Classification

AI misuse is classified under Candidate Malpractice, Staff Malpractice, or Centre Maladministration depending on who is responsible:

Candidate Malpractice (Students)

Unauthorised use during controlled conditions (e.g., using AI in an exam without explicit permission).

Presenting AI output as original work (e.g., essays, code, images) without declaration or proper attribution.
Fabricated references/citations created or “hallucinated” by AI.
Failure to declare material AI assistance where the specification requires disclosure.
Collusion via AI (e.g., using a shared AI workspace to co-author individual assignments).
Circumventing assessment intent (e.g., using AI to produce critical analysis/evaluation that should be the student’s own).

Staff Malpractice

Improper assistance (e.g., using AI to re-write a student’s work beyond permissible feedback).
Inconsistent or undisclosed use of AI in internal assessment design/marketing that compromises fairness.
Inadequate authentication of student work when AI risk is apparent.

Centre Maladministration

Lack of policy/controls around AI when required by awarding bodies.
Systemic failure to inform learners and staff of rules, or to apply them consistently.
Failure to report suspected cases as required by awarding bodies.

Declaration and Transparency

Students must **acknowledge any AI assistance** in their work using the centre’s declaration form. Failure to declare AI use will be treated as malpractice.

Misuse and Consequences

- Submitting AI-generated work as original without disclosure constitutes malpractice.
- Using AI during exams without permission will result in disciplinary action in line with JCQ regulations.

Staff Responsibilities

- Inform students of this policy at the start of the course.
- Monitor AI use and provide guidance on ethical practices.

Candidates will be issued with of the JCQ **Information for candidates - AI (Artificial Intelligence and assessments)** or similar centre document prior to completing their work/prior to signing the declaration of authentication.

Identification and reporting of malpractice

Escalating suspected malpractice issues

Once suspected malpractice is identified, any member of staff at the centre can report it using the appropriate channels. (SMPP 4.3)

to be reported to the Exams Officer immediately, who will inform the awarding body and the Head of Centre and follow the appropriate guidelines.

Reporting suspected malpractice to the awarding body

- The head of centre 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 document **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures** (SMPP 4.1.3)
- The head of centre will ensure that, where a candidate is a child or an adult at risk and is the subject of a malpractice investigation, the candidate’s parent/carer/ appropriate adult is kept informed of the progress of the investigation (SMPP 4.1.3)
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of candidate malpractice. Form JCQ/M2 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of suspected staff malpractice/maladministration (SMPP 4.4, 4.6)

- Candidate malpractice offences relating to the content of work (i.e. inappropriate/offensive content, copying/collusion, plagiarism (including AI misuse) and/or false declaration of authentication) which are discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment component prior to the candidate signing the declaration of authentication, do not need to be reported to the awarding body. Instead, they will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's internal procedures.

Malpractice by a candidate discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment where the offence does not relate to the content of candidates' work (e.g. possession of unauthorised materials, breach of assessment conditions) or where a candidate has signed the declaration of authentication, must be reported using a JCQ M1 to the relevant awarding body. If, at the time of the malpractice, there is no entry for that candidate (who the centre intended to enter), the centre is required to submit an entry by the required entry deadline. (SMPP 4.5)

- If, in the view of the investigator, there is sufficient evidence that an individual may have committed malpractice, that individual (the candidate or the member of staff) will be informed of all the required information and the accused individual informed of their rights and responsibilities (SMPP 5.33-3.4)
- Once the information gathering has concluded, the head of centre (or other appointed information-gatherer) will submit a written report to the relevant awarding body summarising the information obtained and actions taken, accompanied by the information obtained during the course of their enquiries (5.35)
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used when reporting candidate cases; for centre staff, form JCQ/M3 will be used (SMPP 5.37)
- 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 (SMPP 5.40)

Additional information:

n/a

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. (SMPP 11.1)

Additional information:

n/a

Appeals against decisions made in cases of malpractice

William Henry Smith School & 6th Form 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 document **A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes**

Additional information:

n/a

Changes 2025/2026

(Added) New heading **Centre malpractice** added.

(Added) Under heading **Preventing malpractice** added to the list of JCQ documents.

(Added/amended) Under heading **AI use in assessments**:

- additional/amended text added in bullet points to reflect slight changes in SMPP
- optional insert field added referencing the JCQ document **Information for candidates - AI (Artificial Intelligence and assessments)** or similar centre document.

(Amended) Under heading **Reporting suspected malpractice to the awarding body** text amended to reflect wording changes/additions in SMPP.

Centre-specific changes