



Emergency Evacuation Policy (Exams)

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Version	Review Date	Author	Details
1.0	15/03/2017	SJClark	
1.1	05/03/2018	SHawkins	Amended logos
1.1	08/03/2018	SJClark	Annual review – no changes
1.2	04/12/2019	sHawkins	Amended logos
1.3	02/01/2022	SHawkins	Amended ICE chapter number & Updated Logos

Purpose of the policy

This policy details how the centre deals with an emergency evacuation of the exam room(s) by defining staff roles and responsibilities and confirming the emergency evacuation procedure

When is an emergency evacuation required?

An emergency evacuation is required where it is unsafe for candidates to remain in the exam room. This might include a fire in the exam room, 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 exam room, the emergency evacuation procedure may also need to be followed. This might include situations where there is severe disruption in the exam room, serious illness of a candidate or invigilator or similarly serious incidents.

Emergency evacuation of an exam room

Roles and responsibilities

Head teacher

- Ensures the emergency evacuation policy for exams is fit for purpose and complies with relevant health and safety regulation

Senior leader

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

Learning Leader / Class Teacher

- Ensures appropriate arrangements are in place for the emergency evacuation of a disabled candidate from an exam room where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for the candidate
- Ensures the candidate is informed prior to taking their exams of what will happen in the event of an emergency evacuation

Exams officer

- Ensures invigilators are trained in emergency evacuation procedures and how an incident and actions taken must be recorded
- Ensures candidates are briefed (*Candidate exam handbook*), prior to exams taking place, on what will happen in the event of an emergency in the exam room
- Provides invigilators with a copy of the emergency evacuation procedures for every exam room
- Provides a standard invigilator announcement for each exam which includes appropriate information for candidates regarding what will happen if the fire alarm sounds
- Provides an exam room incident log in each exam room
- Liaises with the Learning Leader / Class Teacher and other relevant staff prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- Briefs invigilators prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate



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- Ensures appropriate follow-up is undertaken after an emergency evacuation reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken through the *special consideration* process

Invigilators

- By attending training, ensure they understand what to do in the event of an emergency in the exam room
- Follow the actions required in the emergency evacuation procedure issued to them for every exam room
- Confirm with the exams officer, where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate they are invigilating

Other relevant centre staff

- Support the senior leader, Learning Leader, exams officer and invigilators in ensuring the safe emergency evacuation of exam rooms

Emergency evacuation procedure

Invigilators are trained in this procedure and understand the actions they must take in the event of a fire alarm or other emergency that leads to an evacuation of the exam room.

Emergency evacuation procedure
Actions to be taken (as detailed in the current JCQ <i>Instructions for conducting examinations</i> chapter 25, <i>Emergencies</i>)
Stop the candidates from writing
Collect the attendance register (in order to ensure all candidates are present) and evacuate the examination room in line with the instructions given by the appropriate authority;
Advise candidates to leave all question papers and scripts in the examination room. Candidates must be advised to close their answer booklet.
Ensure the candidates leave the room in silence;
Ensure candidates are supervised as closely as possible while they are out of the examination room so that there is no discussion about the examination;
Make a note of the time of the interruption and how long it lasted;
Allow the candidates the remainder of the working time set for the examination once it resumes;
If there are only a few candidates, consider the possibility of taking the candidates (with question papers and scripts) to another place to finish the examination;
Make a full report of the incident and of the action taken and send to the relevant awarding body.
Additional centre-specific actions to be taken
In the case of a fire alarm, await confirmation from a senior leader/fire marshall that the room should be evacuated
Collect all papers (Due to small number of candidates at Linwood invigilator to collect exam papers)
Evacuate the room by the nearest free exit
Escort the candidates to the assembly point
When/if allowed to return to the exam room, allow candidates time to settle down, remind them they are still under exam conditions
Restart the exam and allow candidates the remaining time set for them
Make relevant changes to the displayed finish time
Record as much detail as you can on the exam room incident log and ensure the Exams Officer is fully briefed at the end of the exam to enable a full report to be sent to the awarding body
Where not allowed to re-enter to the exam room, or the decision is made that the exam must be abandoned – the centre's Exam Contingency Plan (Emergency Evacuation) will be invoked and you will be briefed accordingly at the time