

Complaints Policy (Exams)

St Bartholomew's School

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Centre name	St Bartholomew's School
Centre number	51221
Date policy first created	01/04/2025
Current policy approved by	David Fitter
Current policy reviewed by	Adam Robbins
Date of review	15/01/2026
Date of next review	15/01/2027

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	David Fitter
Senior leader(s)	Adam Robbins
Exams officer	Gaele Jenner
Other staff (if applicable)	

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any complaints at St Bartholomew's School 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 St Bartholomew's School 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/carer) at St Bartholomew's School 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) including the use of AI as the sole or primary means of marking candidates' work.
- 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: None

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: None

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:

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:

None

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:

None

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, St Bartholomew's School encourages an informal resolution in the first instance.

This can be undertaken by making direct contact with the exams office: exams@stbarts.co.uk, outlining the nature of the complaint in as much detail as possible.

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

Written complaints will be acknowledged within five days of receipt setting out a timetable for the investigation where appropriate.

To make a formal complaint, candidates (or parents/carers) must put their complaints in writing (assistance will be provided if requested) for the attention of the Headteacher, David Fitter, using the forms in the appendices to the whole school '[Concerns and Complaints Policy and Procedures](#)'

How a formal complaint is investigated

The headteacher will appoint a member of the senior leadership team (who is not involved in the grounds for complaint and has not personal interest in the outcome) to investigate the complaint and report on the findings and conclusion.

Realistic time limits will be set for each stage but may be extended should further investigations be necessary; the complainant will be sent details and explanation of the new deadline.

Internal appeals procedure

There are three stages to the appeals process. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the outcome of a Stage 1 complaint, it can be escalated to Stage 2. If the complainant remains dissatisfied, the complaint can be escalated to: **Stage Three: Formal Complaint heard by the Governing Body's Complaints Panel.**

The appellant will be informed of the final conclusion in accordance with the internal appeals procedure.

Additional details on the internal appeals process:

None

Changes 2025/2026

Under teaching and learning, added "including the use of AI as the sole or primary means of marking candidates' work." to reflect 5.3.b

Under "Additional grounds for complaint relating to <topic>", "None" has been added when relevant