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Emergency Evacuation Policy (Exams)

Wyedean School & Sixth Form Centre

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Centre name	Wyedean School & Sixth Form Centre
Centre number	57161
Date policy first created	20/10/2025
Current policy approved by	Full Governing Body
Current policy reviewed by	Suzanne Howells
Date of review	10/11/2026
Date of next review	10/11/2027

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	**Name**
Head of centre	Gwennan Jeremiah
Senior leader(s)	Emma Hemsley Dai Thomas
Exams Manager	Suzanne Howells
SENCo (or equivalent role)	Cari Sullivan
Other staff (if applicable)	Sharon Jones EO

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that emergency evacuation from examination rooms at Wyedean School & Sixth Form Centre is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations and reflects centre practice.

References in this policy to ICE refer to the JCQ document **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 (ICE 25.6)
- Where candidates are unable to return to the building to complete the examination, the relevant awarding body will be contacted immediately for advice (ICE 25.6)

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements at Wyedean School & Sixth Form Centre 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) which state that centres must have a written policy for dealing with emergency evacuation of the examination room which will be 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 Wyedean School & Sixth Form Centre, the following actions (in accordance with ICE 25) are taken if an examination room has to be evacuated:

- Candidates are instructed to stop writing
- The attendance register is collected (to ensure all candidates are present)
- The examination room is evacuated in line with the instructions given by the appropriate authority
- Candidates are advised to leave all question papers and scripts in the examination room. Candidates are advised to close their answer booklet(s)
- Candidates are instructed to leave the room in silence
- 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 retained on file if required by an awarding body)
- **For on-screen examinations**:
    - candidates must be closely supervised if an emergency evacuation of the assessment room occurs
    - invigilators should refer to any software specific instructions to safeguard the security of the assessment content and candidates' responses (For example, pausing the assessment for all candidates and locking the evacuated assessment room without closing down the software)

- invigilators should understand the procedures for re-starting an assessment after an unplanned break (i.e. an emergency or a technical failure), controlling the re-starting of the assessment, re-setting the timing (where necessary) and ensuring, where this is technically feasible and permitted by the assessment regulations, candidates can reaccess their previous responses

Additional actions taken:

- In the event of a fire alarm, invigilators are trained to
  In the event of a fire alarm or other authorized instruction, the Senior Invigilator is to be responsible for the control and conduct of the evacuation and is to:

  1. Note the time and instruct candidates to stop writing, put down their pens and turn their paper over, then follow these instructions:

  • G15 / Library / Staffroom – the invigilator should ask the candidates to remain seated unless the emergency is in the immediate room, then await instruction from the Exams Manager or Head of Centre

  • All other rooms - candidates are to evacuate the examination venue and proceed to the established evacuation point on the tennis court

  2. Instruct the candidates to leave all papers, scripts and belongings in the room

  3. Direct the candidates' evacuation which should be calm and silent

  4. Collect the attendance register(s) / iPad and if possible and safe to do so lock the examination room

  5. Report to the evacuation point on the tennis court with the candidates and ensure each student on the register is accounted for

  6. Ensure that communication between candidates is minimized and that there is no discussion relating to the examination – further assistance from support staff will be available at the evacuation point

  On receiving the 'all clear' the Lead Invigilator is to return the candidates to the examination, note the total time lost and add it to the overall period thus allowing the candidates the full examination working time.

  The Lead Invigilator is to submit a full report of the evacuation to the Examinations Manager as soon as possible

  Examination Room Evacuation Announcement to Students

  In the event of a fire alarm, please stop writing, close your papers and await instruction

  The emergency exits are: .....

  If instructed to evacuate, you should proceed immediately to the Tennis Courts and remain with your invigilators

  You should not communicate with any other student during the evacuation period

- 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 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 examination contingency plan will be invoked and invigilators/candidates briefed accordingly at the time

Further actions taken:

n/a

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)
- Ensure any breach of question paper security or malpractice is reported to the awarding body **immediately** (ICE 25.5)

Other responsibilities:

n/a

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

Other responsibilities:

Oversee the evacuation point to ensure eam conditions are followed

The role of the special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) or equivalent role

- 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

Other responsibilities:

n/a

The role of the exams office

- 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 exam 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 in every examination room
- 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
- Ensure a full report of the incident is produced and retained on file if required by an awarding body (ICE 25.4)
- Ensure an online application for special consideration is submitted to the relevant awarding body where candidates have been disadvantaged (ICE 25.7)

Other responsibilities:

n/a

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)

Other responsibilities:

The role of other centre staff

Support the senior leader, SENCo or equivalent role, exams kstaffofficer and
invigilators in ensuring the safe emergency evacuation of exam rooms and that exam conditions are followed during evacuation

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

Changes effective from 1 September 2026

(Updated) Under **Emergency evacuation procedure** reference to on-screen assessments changed to on-screen examinations and wording amended to reflect ICE (section 32, Emergencies).

Centre-specific changes

no centre specific updates