

Conflicts of Interest Policy (Exams)

St Marks Church of England Academy

Conflicts of Interest Policy (Exams)

Centre name	St Marks Church of England Academy
Centre number	14501
Date policy first created	18/03/2024
Current policy approved by	Jennie Khan
Current policy reviewed by	Christopher Pigott
Date of review	21/10/2025
Date of next review	01/10/2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Aimee Gallagher
Senior leader(s)	Jennie Khan (Senior Leader in charge of Examinations)
Exams officer	Anne Rogers
Other staff (if applicable)	Christopher Pigott (Data and Exams Manager)

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that conflicts of interest at St Marks Church of England Academy are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in the policy to **GR** relates to relevant sections of the current JCQ document **General Regulations for Approved Centres**.

Introduction

It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that St Marks Church of England Academy has in place for inspection a written conflicts of interest policy that must be reviewed and updated annually. This policy confirms that St Marks Church of England Academy:

Manages conflicts of interest **by informing the awarding bodies**, before the published deadline for entries for each examination series, of:

- any members of centre staff who are taking qualifications at their own centre which include internally assessed components/units
- any members of centre staff who are teaching and preparing members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) for qualifications which include internally assessed components/units, **and**

maintains internal records of all instances where:

- exams office staff have members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) being entered for examinations and assessments either at the centre itself or other centres
- centre staff are taking qualifications at their own centre which **do not** include internally assessed components/units
- centre staff are taking qualifications at other centres (GR 5.3)

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm how St Marks Church of England Academy manages conflicts of interest under normal delivery arrangements in accordance with the regulations.

General principles

A process is in place to collect any declaration of interest from all centre staff to identify and manage any potential conflicts of interest.

Declaration process

An electronic form is sent to all centre staff at the start of the academic year in October, to identify any potential conflicts of interests that could impact on the integrity of examinations or non-examination assessments.

A log is kept of all staff who have completed the form to ensure compliance.

Managing conflicts of interest

A conflicts of interest log is maintained and any potential conflict declared by centre staff are recorded.

The relevant awarding bodies are informed of specific conflicts of interest (where required), before the published entry deadline for each examination series.

The agreed processes put in place to mitigate any conflict of interest are recorded on the log, and any relevant members of staff informed of these updated procedures.

Additional information:

Not Applicable

Roles and responsibilities

The role of the head of centre is to ensure:

- conflicts of interest are managed according to the requirements in *General Regulations for Approved Centres* (5.3)
- internal records are maintained and that the records include details of the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected
- the records are available where they may be requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and/or awarding body staff
- the records are retained until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
- that entering members of centre staff for qualifications at this centre is as a last resort in cases where the member of centre staff is unable to find another centre
- that proper protocols are in place to prevent the member of centre staff having access to examination materials prior to the examination and that other centre staff are briefed on maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of the examination materials
- that during the examination series the member of centre staff is treated in the same way as any other candidate entered for that examination, does not have access to examination materials and does not receive any preferential treatment

Additional responsibilities:

Not Applicable

The role of the exams office/officer

To ensure the process for collecting declarations of interest is undertaken.

To identify and follow the awarding body's administrative process for submitting details of members of staff who are:

- taking qualifications which include internally-assessed components/units at their own centre
- teaching and preparing members of their family (which includes step-family, foster family and similar close relationships) or close friends and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) for qualifications which include internally-assessed components/units

To retain the records of the measures taken to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later.

Additional responsibilities:

Not Applicable

Changes 2025/2026

In terms of JCQ regulations for 2025/2026, no changes are applicable to this policy.

(Updated) The **General principles** section content has been reformatted and will require the user to edit and repopulate this section.

Centre-specific changes

Upon review in October 2025, no changes were made.