

## Red Balloon Exams Complaints & Internal Appeals Policy 2019/2020

### **Complaints**

If a student or parent wishes to make a complaint about any aspect of the examinations system at Red Balloon they should follow the school's General Complaints Procedure. The first point of contact should be the Examinations Officer, unless the complaint concerns the Examinations Officer, in which case they should contact the Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for Examinations.

### **Appeals against internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)**

This procedure confirms Red Balloon's compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres 2018-2019, section 5.8 that the centre has in place "a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions and to ensure that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates" and that the centre "must inform candidates of their centre assessed marks as a candidate is allowed to request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body."

Certain components of GCSE (GCSE controlled assessments and GCSE non-examination assessments) that contribute to the final grade of the qualification are internally assessed (marked) by the subject teacher. The marks awarded (the internal assessment decisions) are then submitted by the deadline set by the awarding body for external moderation.

### **Deadlines for the submission of marks (Summer 2020 exam series)**

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Qualification</b> | <b>Details</b>                           |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| <b>15/05/2020</b> | <b>GCSE</b>          | <b>AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC/Eduqas</b> |

Red Balloon is committed to ensuring that whenever its staff mark candidates' controlled assessment/coursework this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the awarding body's specification and subject-specific associated documents.

Red Balloon ensures that all centre staff follow a robust Non-examination assessment policy (for the management of GCSE non-examination assessments). This policy details all procedures relating to non-examination assessments, including the marking and quality assurance processes which relevant teaching staff are required to follow.

Candidates' work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills, and who have been trained in this activity. Red Balloon is committed to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body. Where a number of subject teachers are involved in marking 2 candidates' work, internal moderation and standardisation will ensure consistency of marking.

If a candidate believes that this may not have happened in relation to his/her work, he/she may make use of this appeals procedure.

**N.B: an appeal may only be made against the assessment process and not against the mark submitted to the awarding body.**

On being informed of their centre assessed marks, if a candidate believes that the above procedures were not followed in relation to the marking of his/her work, or that the assessor has not properly applied the mark scheme to his/her marking, then he/she may make use of this appeals procedure to consider whether to request a review of the centre's marking.

1. Red Balloon will ensure that candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks so that they may request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body.
2. Red Balloon will inform candidates that they may request copies of materials (for example, a copy of their marked work, the relevant specification, the mark scheme and any other associated subject-specific documents) to assist them in considering whether to request a review of the centre's marking of the assessment.
3. Red Balloon will, having received a request for copies of materials, promptly make them available to the candidate.
4. Red Balloon will provide candidates with sufficient time in order to allow them to review copies of materials and reach a decision.
5. Requests for reviews of marking must be made in writing within 5 working days of receiving copies of the requested material, by completing an Internal appeals form (Appendix 1).
6. Red Balloon will allow 5 working days for the review to be carried out, to make any necessary changes to marks and to inform the candidate of the outcome, all before the awarding body's deadline.
7. Red Balloon will ensure that the review of marking is carried out by an assessor who has appropriate competence, has had no previous involvement in the assessment of that candidate and has no personal interest in the review.
8. Red Balloon will instruct the reviewer to ensure that the candidate's mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre.
9. The candidate will be informed in writing of the outcome of the review of the centre's marking.
10. The outcome of the review of the centre's marking will be made known to the head of centre and will be logged as a complaint. A written record will be kept and made available to the awarding body upon request. Should the review of the centre's

marking bring any irregularity in procedures to light, the awarding body will be informed immediately.

After candidates' work has been internally assessed, it is moderated by the awarding body. The moderation process carried out by the awarding bodies may result in a mark change, either upwards or downwards, even after an internal review. The internal review process is in place to ensure consistency of marking within the centre, whereas moderation by the awarding body ensures that centre marking is in line with national standards. The mark submitted to the awarding body is subject to change and should therefore be considered provisional.

### **Appeals against the centre's decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal**

This procedure confirms Red Balloon's compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres 2019-2020, section 5.14 that the centre has in place "a written internal appeals procedure to manage disputes when a candidate disagrees with a centre decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal..."

Following the issue of results, awarding bodies make post-results services available.

- Full details of these services, internal deadlines for requesting a service and fees charged are provided by the exams officer.

Candidates are also informed of the arrangements for post-results services before they sit any exams and the accessibility of senior members of centre staff immediately after the publication of results, details will be displayed in the Examination noticeboard.

If the centre or a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) has a concern and believes a result may not be accurate, an enquiry about the result may be requested.

Enquiries about results (EARs) offers three services.

Service 1 – clerical re-check

Service 2 – review of marking

Service 3 – review of moderation (this service is not available to an individual candidate)

Written candidate consent (informed consent via candidate email is acceptable) is required in all cases before a request for an EAR service 1 or 2 is submitted to the awarding body as with these services candidates' marks and subject grades may be lowered. Candidate consent can only be collected after the publication of results.

If a concern is raised about a particular examination result, the exams officer, teaching staff and head of centre will investigate the feasibility of requesting an enquiry supported by the centre.

Where the centre does not uphold a request from a candidate, the candidate may pay the appropriate EAR fee to the centre, and a request will be made to the awarding body on the candidate's behalf.

If the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) believes there are grounds to appeal against the centre's decision not to support an enquiry, an internal appeal can be submitted to the centre using the internal appeals form (Appendix 1) at least one week prior to the internal deadline for submitting an EAR.

The appellant will be informed of the outcome of his/her appeal before the internal deadline for submitting an EAR.

Following the EAR outcome, an external appeals process is available if the head of centre remains dissatisfied with the outcome and believes there are grounds for appeal. The JCQ publications Post-Results Services and JCQ Appeals Booklet (A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes) will be consulted to determine the acceptable grounds for a preliminary appeal.

Where the head of centre is satisfied after receiving the EAR outcome, but the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) believes there are grounds for a preliminary appeal to the awarding body, a further internal appeal may be made to the head of centre. Following this, the head of centre's decision as to whether to proceed with a preliminary appeal will be based upon the acceptable grounds as detailed in the JCQ Appeals Booklet. Candidates or parents/carers are not permitted to make direct representations to an awarding body.

The internal appeals form (Appendix 1) should be completed and submitted to the centre within 10 calendar days of the notification of the outcome of the EAR. Subject to the head of centre's decision, this will allow the centre to process the preliminary appeal and submit to the awarding body within the required 30 calendar days of receiving the outcome of the enquiry about results process. Awarding body fees which may be charged for the preliminary appeal must be paid to the centre by the appellant before the preliminary appeal is submitted to the awarding body (fees are available from the exams officer). If the appeal is upheld by the awarding body, this fee will be refunded by the awarding body and repaid to the appellant by the centre.

This policy will be reviewed every 12 months by the Deputy Headteacher Responsible for Examinations. Review date December 2018

## **Appendix 1 - Internal Appeals Form**

## Complaints and appeals form

| FOR CENTRE USE ONLY |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Date received       |  |
| Reference No.       |  |

Please tick box to indicate the nature of your complaint/appeal

- Complaint/appeal against the centre's delivery of a qualification
- Complaint/appeal against the centre's administration of a qualification

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  |

**Please state the grounds for your complaint/appeal below**

If your complaint is lengthy please write as bullet points; please keep to the point and include relevant detail such as dates, names etc. and provide any evidence you may have to support what you say  
Your appeal should identify the centre's failure to follow procedures as set out in the relevant policy, and/or issues in teaching and learning which have impacted the candidate  
*If necessary, continue on an additional page if this form is being completed electronically or overleaf if hard copy being completed*

Detail any steps you have already taken to resolve the issue(s) and what you would consider to be a good resolution to the issue(s)

Complainant/appellant signature:

Date of signature:

**This form must be completed in full; an incomplete form will be returned to the complainant/appellant**

### Appendix 2 - Complaints and Appeals Log

On receipt, all complaints/appeals are assigned a reference number and logged. Outcome and outcome date is also recorded.

| Ref No. | Date received | Complaint or Appeal | Outcome | Outcome date |
|---------|---------------|---------------------|---------|--------------|
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