HODGSON ACADEMY

Complaints and Appeals Procedure (Exams)

2025/2026

This procedure is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Approved/reviewed by	
Date of next review	October 2026

Key staff involved in the complaints and appeals procedure

Role	Name(s)
Head of centre	**Mrs S. Khan**
Exams officer	**Mrs O. Leader**
Exams Officer Line Manager (SLT)	**Mrs J. Shaw**
Senior leader(s)	**Miss F Bate, Mr A. Day, Ms S Hetherington, Mrs J Bristow, Miss J. Aionesei, Miss J. Morton, Mrs Mr L Jenkinson, Mr S. Stott, Miss R Buckley, Mr C McCann, Mrs L Foley, Mrs J Harvey**
SENCo/ Assistant SENCo	**Mrs L. Foley/ Mrs L. Beaumont**
Other Staff	**Mrs E. Maxwell**

Purpose of the procedure

This procedure confirms Hodgson Academy's compliance with JCQ's General Regulations for Approved Centres 2025-2026 (section 5.8) that the centre will draw to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers their written complaints and appeals procedure which will cover general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification.

Grounds for complaint

A candidate (or his/her/parent/carer) may make a complaint on the grounds below (this is not an exhaustive list).

Teaching and learning

- Quality of teaching and learning, for example
  - 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)
- Pre-release/advance material/set task issued by the awarding body not provided on time to an exam candidate
- The taking of an assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not conducted according to the JCQ/awarding body instructions
- The marking of an internal assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not undertaken according to the requirements of the awarding body (complainant should refer to the centre's *internal appeals procedure*)
- Centre fails to adhere to its *internal appeals procedure*
- Candidate not informed of his/her centre assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not informed of his/her centre assessed marks 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 centre assessed marks

Access arrangements

- Candidate not assessed by the centre's appointed assessor
- Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding his/her access arrangements
- Candidate did not consent to personal data being shared electronically (by the non-acquisition of a signed data protection notice/candidate data personal consent form
- Candidate not informed/adequately informed of the arrangements in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangements would not apply
- Exam information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it
- Adapted equipment put in place failed during exam/assessment
- Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment
- Appropriate arrangements not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment

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 exam/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong exam/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong tier of entry

Conducting examinations

- Failure to adequately brief candidate on exam timetable/exam regulations prior to exam/assessment taking place
- Room in which exam held did not provide candidate with appropriate conditions for taking the exam
- Inadequate invigilation in exam room
- Failure to conduct exam according to the regulations
- Online system failed during (on-screen) exam/assessment
- Disruption during exam/assessment
- Alleged, suspected or actual malpractice incident not investigated/reported
- Eligible application for special consideration for a candidate not submitted/not submitted to timescale
- Failure to inform/update candidate on the outcome of a special consideration application

Results and Post-results

- Before exams, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the accessibility 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 decision on the submission of a 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 via Examinations Officers to the centre's *internal appeals procedure*)
- Centre applied for the wrong post-results service/for the wrong exam paper for a candidate
- Centre missed awarding body deadline to apply for a post-results service
- Centre applied for a post-results service for candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission

Complaints and appeals procedure

If a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) has a general concern or complaint about the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification he/she is following, Hodgson Academy encourages him/her to try to resolve this informally in the first instance. A concern or complaint should be made in person, by telephone or in writing to the head of centre or Examinations Officers.

If a complaint fails to be resolved informally, the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) is then at liberty to make a formal complaint.

How to make a formal complaint

- A formal complaint should be submitted in writing by completing a **complaints and appeals form**
- Forms are available from the examinations officers
- Completed forms should be returned to the examinations officers
- Forms received will be logged by the centre and acknowledged within 10 working calendar days

How a formal complaint is investigated

- **Acknowledge the complaint**
- **Make enquiries to establish the facts**
- **Seek advice as appropriate**
- **Attempt to resolve the matter informally**
- **Establish whether or not the complainant is satisfied**
- **Advise complainants of the next stages if they wish to proceed to a formal consideration of the complaint**
- **The findings and conclusion will be provided to the complainant within 10 working days**

Appeals

Following the outcome, if the complainant remains dissatisfied and believes there are clear grounds, an appeal can be submitted.

- The complaints Appeals committee of the Governing body will consider complaints where the head teacher has not been able to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the complainant and the complainant wishes to appeal.
- The committee will consider the written materials
- Consider the complaint and the head teacher's actions
- Invite the head teacher and the complainant to the meeting
- Reasonable notice will be given to all parties of the date and time of the hearing
- The Appeals committee will inform the appellant of the final conclusion is due course. A written response will be provided as appropriate
- This stage would normal be expected to take no more than 10 working school days.
- The Chair of Governors (or Committee) will inform the appellant of the final conclusion in due course.

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

Name of complainant/appellant	
Candidate name if different to complainant/appellant	

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

Complaints and appeals log

[Insert your centre's process on the use of this log, for example - 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