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Word Processor in Exams Policy

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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CHAIR OF GOVERNORS SIGNATURE:..... David R Evans **.....**

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Bishop Challoner School Vision

At Bishop Challoner Catholic School, our curriculum is rooted in the Gospel values of faith, compassion, dignity and service. Inspired by Christ's example, we strive to develop young people who are intellectually curious, morally responsible and equipped to make a positive contribution to society.

We believe every child is uniquely created in the image of God and deserves an education that enables them to flourish academically, spiritually and personally. Our curriculum is therefore ambitious for every learner, regardless of starting point or background.

We aim to provide an education which develops knowledgeable, confident and compassionate young people who possess the qualifications, skills and character required to thrive in higher education, employment and modern society.

Our commitment is that every pupil experiences high-quality teaching, an ambitious curriculum and a culture of high expectations where barriers to learning are removed and success is celebrated.

2. Mission Statement

Our curriculum seeks to nurture the whole child by combining academic excellence with Catholic values, enabling pupils to become compassionate leaders who serve others with integrity and humility.

Our curriculum:

- places pupils at the centre of every decision;
- develops deep subject knowledge through a carefully sequenced curriculum;
- promotes curiosity, resilience and independence;
- prepares pupils for successful next steps in education, employment and training;
- removes barriers through adaptive teaching and inclusive practice;
- develops cultural capital through enrichment and wider experiences;
- promotes dignity, respect and service to others;
- ensures every pupil is challenged to achieve their God-given potential.

We believe that outstanding teaching transforms lives. Consequently, high-quality teaching and learning remain our greatest priority.

Introduction

This policy on the use of word processors in examinations and assessments is reviewed and updated annually, on the publication of updated JCQ regulations and guidance contained in the publications Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments and Instructions for conducting examinations.

References to 'AA' relate to JCQ *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2023-2024* and ICE to JCQ *Instructions for conducting examinations 2023-2024*.

Purpose of the policy

This policy details how the centre manages and administers the use of word processors (including laptops and tablets) in examinations and assessments.

Principles for using a word processor

Bishop Challoner Catholic School complies with AA chapter 4 *Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties* regulations and guidance as follows:

(AA 4.2.1)
Candidates with access to word processors are allowed to do so in order to remove barriers for disabled candidates which prevent them from being placed at a substantial disadvantage as a consequence of persistent and significant difficulties.

The use of word processors is only permitted whilst ensuring that the integrity of the assessment is maintained, at the same time as providing access to assessments for a disabled candidate.

(AA 4.2.2)
The use of a word processor is not granted where it will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question.

(AA 4.2.3)
Candidates may not require the use of a word processor in each specification. As subjects and their methods of assessments may vary, leading to different demands of our candidates, the need for the use of a word processor is considered on a subject-by-subject basis.

(AA 4.2.4)
The use of a word processor is normally considered and agreed where appropriate at the start of the course providing the centre has firmly established a picture of need and normal way of working for a candidate.

Candidates are made aware when they will have the use of a word processor for timetabled examinations and non-examination assessments.

(AA 4.2.5)
The use of a word processor for candidates is only granted if it reflects the support given to the candidate as their 'normal way of working', which is defined as support:

- *in the classroom (where appropriate); or*
- *working in small groups for reading and/or writing; or*
- *literacy support lessons; or*
- *literacy intervention strategies; and/or*
- *in internal school tests/examinations*
- *mock examinations.*

The only exceptions to the above would be a temporary injury or impairment, or a diagnosis of a disability or manifestation of an impairment relating to an existing disability arising after the start of the course.

The use of a word processor

Bishop Challoner Catholic School complies with AA chapter 5 *Access arrangements available* as follows:

(AA 5.8.1)
Provides a word processor with the spelling and grammar check facility/predictive text disabled (switched off).

Only grants the use of a word processor to a candidate where it is their normal way of working (see 4.2.5 above) within the centre.

Only grants the use of a word processor to a candidate if it is appropriate to their needs (for example, the quality of language significantly improves as a result of using a word processor due to problems with planning and organisation when writing by hand).

(The above also extends to the use of electronic braillers and tablets)

(AA 5.8.2)
Provides access to word processors to candidates in non-examination assessment components as standard practice unless prohibited by the specification.

(AA 5.8.3)
Allows candidates to use a word processor in an examination to type certain questions, i.e. those requiring extended writing, and handwrite shorter answers.

Are also aware that examinations which have a significant amount of writing, as well as those that place a greater demand on the need to organise thought and plan extended answers, are those where candidates will frequently need to type. Examinations which require more simplistic answers are often easier to handwrite within the answer booklet. The candidate avoids the difficulty of visually tracking between the question paper and screen.

(AA 5.8.4)
In all cases, ensures that a word processor cover sheet (Form 4) is completed and included with each candidate's typed script (according to the instructions issued by the individual awarding body).

Does not simply grant the use of a word processor to a candidate because he/she prefers to type rather than write or can work faster on a keyboard, or because he/she uses a laptop at home.

Word processors and their programmes

Bishop Challoner Catholic School complies with ICE 8.8 *Word processors* instructions by ensuring:

- word processors are used as a type-writer, not as a database, although standard formatting software is acceptable;
- word processors have been cleared of any previously stored data, as must any portable storage medium used;
- an unauthorised memory stick is not permitted for use by a candidate;
- where required, candidates are provided with a memory stick, which has been cleared of any previously stored data, by a nominated member of centre staff;
- word processors are in good working order at the time of the examination;
- word processors are accommodated in such a way that other candidates are not disturbed and cannot read the screen;
- where a candidate using a word processor is accommodated separately, a separate invigilator is used;
- word processors are either connected to a printer so that a script can be printed off, or have the facility to print from a portable storage medium;
- documents are printed after the examination is over;
- candidates are present to verify that the work printed is their own;
- word processed scripts are inserted in/attached to any answer booklet which contains some of the answers (and according to instructions issued by the individual awarding body);
- word processors are used to produce scripts under secure conditions, and if they are not then the centre is aware that they may be refused by the awarding body;
- word processors are not used to perform skills which are being assessed;
- word processors are not connected to an intranet or any other means of communication;
- candidates are not given access to other applications such as a calculator (where prohibited in the examination), spreadsheets etc when using a word processor;
- graphic packages or computer aided design software is not included on a word processor unless permission has been given to use these;
- predictive text software or an automatic spelling and grammar check is disabled unless the candidate has been permitted a scribe or is using voice recognition technology (the script must have a completed scribe cover sheet included), or the awarding body's specification permits the use of automatic spell checking;
- voice recognition technology is not included on word processors unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe or relevant software;
- word processors are not used on the candidate's behalf by a third party unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe.

Laptops and tablets

Bishop Challoner Catholic School further complies with ICE 8.8 instructions by ensuring:

- tablets used during examinations/assessments are designed to run for a long period of time once fully charged and are 'free-standing';
- the battery capacity of all laptops and/or tablets is checked before the candidate's examination(s) with the battery sufficiently charged for the entire duration of the examination;

- candidates with fully charged laptops or tablets are given the opportunity to be seated within the main examination hall without the need for separate invigilation and power points;
- candidates are reminded that their centre number, candidate number and the unit/component code must appear on each page as a header or footer;
- candidates using Notepad or Wordpad software (which do not allow for the insertion of a header or footer) are instructed to handwrite their details as a header or footer once they have finished the examination and printed off their typed script; candidates are also supervised to ensure that they are solely performing this task and not re-reading their answers or amending their work in any way;
- candidates are instructed to appropriately number each page;
- candidates are instructed to use a minimum 12pt font and double spacing;
- invigilators remind candidates to save their work at regular intervals;
- where it is possible 'autosave' is set up on each laptop/tablet;
- candidates are present at the end of the examination when their script is printed off so they can verify that the work printed is their own.

Accommodating word processors in examinations

Candidates using word processors (including laptops or tablets) are internally accommodated in the following manner:

- Seated in the SEN department in small classrooms away from the main exam hall, with dedicated invigilators.

Appendix 1

The criteria that the Head of Centre of Bishop Challoner Catholic School uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations:

The 'normal way of working' for exam candidates, as directed by the Head of Centre, is that candidates handwrite their exams. An exception to this is where a candidate may have an approved access arrangement in place, for example the use of a scribe/speech recognition technology.

Awarding word processors

There are also exceptions where a candidate may be **awarded** the use of a word processor in exams where he/she has a firmly established need, it reflects the candidate's normal way of working and by not being awarded a word processor would be at a substantial disadvantage to other candidates. Exceptions might include where a candidate has, for example:

- a learning difficulty which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to write legibly;
- a medical condition;
- a physical disability;
- a sensory impairment;
- planning and organisational problems when writing by hand;
- poor handwriting.
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Allocating word processors

Appropriate exam-compliant word processors will be **allocated** by the IT department in liaison with the SENCo and the Exams Officer.