



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
Cardiff

Malpractice Policy (Examinations)

St John's College, Cardiff

MALPRACTICE POLICY (EXAMINATIONS)

This policy applies to all sections of the School:

Sixth Form, Senior School

Version: September 2025

Key staff involved in the policy

Head of Centre	Mr Shaun Moody
Director of Academic Studies	Miss Melissa Owen
Examinations Officer	Mrs Catherine Clarke

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any malpractice at St John's College is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in the policy to GR and SMPP relate to relevant sections of the current JCQ publications General Regulations for Approved Centres and Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures.

Introduction

What is malpractice and maladministration?

'Malpractice' and 'maladministration' are related concepts, the common theme of which is that they involve a failure to follow the rules of an examination or assessment.

This policy and procedure uses the word 'malpractice' to cover both 'malpractice' and 'maladministration' and it means any act, default or practice which is:

- a breach of the Regulations;
- a breach of awarding body requirements regarding how a qualification should be delivered;
- a failure to follow established procedures in relation to a qualification.

which:

- gives rise to prejudice to candidates;
- compromises public confidence in qualifications;
- compromises , attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of a result or certificate;
- damages the authority, reputation or credibility of any awarding body or centre or any officer, employee or agent of any awarding body or centre (SMPP 1).

Candidate malpractice

'Candidate malpractice' normally means malpractice by a candidate in connection with any examination or assessment, including the preparation and authentication of any controlled assessments, coursework or non-examination assessments, the presentation of any practical work, the compilation of portfolios of assessment evidence and the writing of any examination paper. (SMPP 2)

Centre staff malpractice

'Centre staff malpractice' means malpractice committed by:

- a member of staff, contractor (whether employed under a contract of employment or a contract for services) or a volunteer at a centre; or
- an individual appointed in another capacity by a centre such as an invigilator, a Communication Professional, a Language Modifier, a practical assistant, a prompter, a reader or a scribe (SMPP 2).

Suspected malpractice

For the purposes of this document, suspected malpractice means all alleged or suspected incidents of malpractice (regardless of how the incident might be categorised, as described in SMPP, section 19). (SMPP 2)

Purpose of the policy

To confirm St John's College:

has in place a written malpractice policy which covers all qualifications delivered by the centre and details how candidates are informed and advised to avoid committing malpractice in examinations/assessments, how suspected malpractice issues should be escalated within the centre and reported to the relevant awarding body; it must also acknowledge the use of AI. This policy is reviewed and updated annually. (GR 5.3)

General principles

In accordance with the regulations St John's College will:

- Take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after assessments have taken place (GR 5.11).
- Inform the awarding body immediately of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, by completing the appropriate documentation (GR 5.11).
- As required by an awarding body, gather evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) in accordance with the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures and provide such information and advice as the awarding body may reasonably require (GR 5.11).

Preventing malpractice

St John's College has in place:

- Robust processes to prevent and identify malpractice, as outlined in section 3 of the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures. (SMPP 4.3)

- This includes ensuring that all staff involved in the delivery of assessments and examinations understand the requirements for conducting these as specified in the following JCQ documents and any further awarding body guidance:
 - General Regulations for Approved Centres 2024-2025
 - Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE) 2024-2025
 - Instructions for conducting coursework 2024-2025
 - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments 2024-2025
 - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2024-2025
 - A guide to the special consideration process 2024-2025
 - Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures 2024- 2025 (this policy)
 - Plagiarism in Assessments;
 - AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications
 - Post Results Services
 - A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes 2024-2025 (SMPP 3.3.1)

Informing and advising candidates

Students in R15 (Year 10), R16 (Year 11), Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth are provided with an examination handbook at the beginning of the academic year with information relevant to their year group. These contain the links to the various JCQ information for candidates documents.

These documents are also emailed and posted again ahead of any examinations.

Students have an information document regarding Malpractice and use of AI emailed to them. Year group assemblies also discuss plagiarism, use of AI and malpractice. These are run, early in the academic year, by the Heads of Year, Director of Academic Studies, members of SLT, Examinations Officer as appropriate.

Identification and reporting of malpractice

Escalating suspected malpractice issues

Once suspected malpractice is identified, any member of staff at the centre can report it using the appropriate channels (SMPP 4.3)

- Any suspected malpractice should be reported to the Head and Deputy Head.

Reporting suspected malpractice to the awarding body

- The head of centre will notify the appropriate awarding body immediately of all alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice, using the appropriate forms, and will conduct any investigation and gathering of information in accordance with the requirements of the JCQ publication Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures (SMPP 4.1.3)

- The head of centre will ensure that where a candidate who is a child/vulnerable adult is the subject of a malpractice investigation, the candidate's parent/carer/ appropriate adult is kept informed of the progress of the investigation (SMPP 4.1.3)
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of candidate malpractice. Form JCQ/M2 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of suspected staff malpractice/maladministration (SMPP 4.4, 4.6)
- Malpractice by a candidate discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment component prior to the candidate signing the declaration of authentication need not be reported to the awarding body but will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's internal procedures. The only exception to this is where the awarding body's confidential assessment material has potentially been breached. The breach will be reported to the awarding body immediately (SMPP 4.5)
- If, in the view of the investigator, there is sufficient evidence to implicate an individual in malpractice, that individual (a candidate or a member of staff) will be informed of the rights of accused individuals (SMPP 5.33)
- Once the information gathering has concluded, the head of centre (or other appointed information gatherer) will submit a written report summarising the information obtained and actions taken to the relevant awarding body, accompanied by the information obtained during the course of their enquiries (5.35)
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used when reporting candidate cases; for centre staff, form JCQ/M3 will be used (SMPP 5.37)
- The awarding body will decide on the basis of the report, and any supporting documentation, whether there is evidence of malpractice and if any further investigation is required. The head of centre will be informed accordingly (SMPP 5.40)

Communicating malpractice decisions

Once a decision has been made, it will be communicated in writing to the head of centre as soon as possible. The head of centre will communicate the decision to the individuals concerned and pass on details of any sanctions and action in cases where this is indicated. The head of centre will also inform the individuals if they have the right to appeal. (SMPP 11.1)

Appeals against decisions made in cases of malpractice

St John's College will:

- Provide the individual with information on the process and timeframe for submitting an appeal, where relevant.
- Refer to further information and follow the process provided in the JCQ publication 'A guide to the awarding bodies' appeals processes'.

Appendix 1: Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI Misuse in Assessments

St John's College abides by the JCQ AI Use in Assessment Policy.

AI tools must only be used when the conditions of the assessment permit the use of the internet and where the student is able to demonstrate that the final submission is the product of their own independent work and independent thinking.

Examples of AI misuse include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Copying or paraphrasing sections of AI-generated content to the point that the work can no longer be considered to be the student's own.
2. Copying or paraphrasing whole responses of AI-generated content.
3. Using AI to complete parts of the assessment so that the work does not reflect the student's own work, analysis, evaluation or calculations.
4. Failing to acknowledge use of AI tools when they have been used as a source of information.
5. Incomplete or poor acknowledgement of AI tools.
6. Submitting work with intentionally incomplete or misleading references or bibliographies.

AI Misconduct

1. Students are prohibited from using AI to create and/or distribute content that is discriminatory, harmful, offensive, or intentionally biased.
2. Students who do not use AI tools responsibly may be subject to sanctions, either at an internal school level or externally, if work is submitted for assessment.
3. When it relates to NEA or coursework, students are required to sign an authentication form, and any suspected misuse of AI must be reported to the awarding body.