



# **Conflict of Interest (Exams) Procedure**

## **2025/26**

Centre name	The Polesworth School
Centre number	31045
Current plan approved by	Mrs Anne Harris-Green
Current plan reviewed by	Mrs K. Smith
Date of review	31/10/2025
Date of next review	02/11/2026

## Key staff involved in the procedure

Role	Name
Head of centre	Mrs Favell
Senior leader(s)	Mr Quinney, Mr Ford, Mrs O'Regan, Mrs HarrisGreen
Exams and Data Manager	Mrs Coopey

This procedure is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that conflicts of interest at The Polesworth School are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in the procedure 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 The Polesworth School has in place for inspection a written conflicts of interest procedure that must be reviewed and updated annually. This policy confirms that The Polesworth School:

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 procedure

The purpose of this policy is to confirm how The Polesworth School manages conflicts of interest under normal delivery arrangements in accordance with the regulations.

## General principles

A process is in place to Distribute 'Conflict of Interest' forms to all staff at the start of the academic year, staff who meet the potential conflict criteria complete a form detailing the potential conflict. from all centre staff are given access to and directed to the common place for the form and/or handed a form to complete during pre-exams meeting to to Identify and manage any potential conflict of interest.

## Declaration process

A electronic and/or hard copy of a Declaration of Interest form is sent to all staff, including invigilators, at the beginning of the academic year. These are collected by the exams office and reported, if necessary, to the relevant examining bodies

## Managing conflicts of interest

A conflicts of interest log is maintained and any potential conflict declared by centre staff is centrally recorded on the log. The relevant awarding body/bodies is/are informed (where required by the nature of the conflict) of specific conflicts of interest/centre staff declarations before the published deadline for entries for each examination series by identifying and following the individual awarding body's administrative process. The agreed measures/protocols taken/put in place to mitigate any potential risk to the integrity of the qualifications affected are recorded on the log and the affected member of staff informed of these measures/protocols.

## 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:

Ensure that centre staff are aware of the requirement to declare any interest - Ensure that declarations are recorded/logged as potential conflicts of interest

### **The role of the exams office/manager**

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 result enquiry is completed, or whichever one is later.