EQUALITIES POLICY (Exams)
2025/26

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Approved/reviewed by	
James Cashmore	
Date of next review	Winter 2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name(s)
SENCo (or equivalent role)	**Marie Campbell**
Senior leader(s)	**David Chesterman**
Head of centre	**Neil Jones**
Assessor(s)	**Marie Campbell**
Access arrangement facilitator(s)	**Marie Campbell, Kelly Brown, James Cashmore**

Contents

Purpose of the policy

This document is provided as an exams-specific supplement to the centre-wide equalities and/or disability/accessibility policy/plan which details how the centre will:

- recognise its duties towards disabled candidates, including private candidates, ensuring compliance with all aspects of the Equality Act 2010†, particularly Section 20 (7). This must include a duty to explore and provide access to suitable courses, submit applications for reasonable adjustments through the access arrangements process and to make reasonable adjustments to the services the centre provides to disabled candidates. Where the centre is under a duty to make a reasonable adjustment, the centre must not charge a disabled candidate any additional fee in relation to the adjustment or aid

  †or any legislation in a relevant jurisdiction other than England and Wales which has an equivalent purpose and effect

(JCQ's **General Regulations for Approved Centres**, 5.4)

This publication is further referred to in this policy as GR

This policy details how the centre facilitates access to exams and assessments for disabled candidates, as defined under the terms of the Equality Act 2010, by outlining staff roles and responsibilities in relation to:

- identifying the need for appropriate arrangements, reasonable adjustments and/or adaptations (referred to in this policy as 'access arrangements')
- requesting access arrangements
- implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams
- good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability

A definition is provided in the JCQ document (Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties) **Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments** 2025-2026 (*Definitions* section).

This publication is further referred to in this policy as AARA

Identifying the need for access arrangements

Roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- Is familiar with the entire contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ documents including GR and AARA
- Ensures the quality of the access arrangements process within the centre
- Ensures an appropriately qualified assessor(s) is appointed, evidence of the assessor's qualification(s) is obtained before he/she assesses candidates and that evidence of the qualification(s) of the person(s) appointed is held on file
- Ensures the assessment process is administered in accordance with the regulations and that the correct procedures are followed as in Chapter 7 of AARA
- Ensures that all assessments carried out and arrangements put in place comply with JCQ and awarding body regulations and guidance

Senior leader(s)
- Are familiar with the entire contents of the annually updated JCQ documents including GR and AARA

Special educational needs coordinator (SENCo) or equivalent role
- Has full knowledge and understanding of the contents, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ document AARA
- Ensures the assessment process is administered in accordance with the regulations and that the correct procedures are followed as in Chapter 7 of AARA
- Leads on the access arrangements process to facilitate access for candidates

- Ensures arrangements put in place for exams/assessments reflect a candidate's *normal way of working* within the centre
- Ensures the need for access arrangements for a candidate is considered on a subject by subject basis
- Works with teaching staff, relevant support staff and the exams officer to ensure centre-delegated and awarding body approved access arrangements are put in place for candidates taking internal and external exams/assessments
- Provide information to evidence the normal way of working of a candidate
- Conducts appropriate assessments to identify the need(s) of a candidate
- Provides appropriate evidence to confirm the need(s) of a candidate
- Completes appropriate documentation as required by the regulations of JCQ and the awarding body

Teaching staff

- (where appropriate) Inform the SENCo (or equivalent role) of any concerns, observations or feedback about a candidate or any support that might be needed by a candidate

Support staff (for example, Learning Support Assistants, Teaching Assistants and Communication Support Workers)

- (where appropriate) Provide comments and observations to support the SENCo (or equivalent role) to 'paint a holistic picture of need', confirming normal way of working for a candidate

Assessor of candidates with learning difficulties

(An assessor of candidates with learning difficulties will be an appropriately qualified access arrangements assessor/psychologist/specialist teacher assessor)

- Has detailed understanding of the JCQ publication AARA

Exams Officer

- Ensures staff roles, responsibilities and processes in identifying, requesting and implementing access arrangements for **all** candidates are clearly defined and documented
- Ensures a policy demonstrating the centre's compliance with relevant legislation is in place
- Support the SENCo in determining the need for and implementing access arrangements
- Ensures that the access arrangements/reasonable adjustments approved allow the candidate to access the assessment, but do not result in the candidate gaining an unfair advantage
- Defines and documents roles, responsibilities and processes in identifying, requesting and implementing access arrangements
- Produces and annually reviews and updates a word processor policy, specific to the centre, which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations and assessments
- If not the appropriately qualified assessor, works with the person/persons appointed, on all matters relating to assessing candidates and the administration of the assessment process

Use of word processors

Refer to appendix 1 for the word processor policy.

A member of the centre's senior leadership team must produce a word processor policy, specific to the centre, which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations and assessments. This policy must be available for inspection. (AARA, section 5.8)

Requesting access arrangements

Roles and responsibilities

SENCo or equivalent role
- Determines if the arrangements identified for a candidate require prior approval from the awarding body before the arrangements are put in place or if approval is centre delegated
- To comply with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, ensures relevant candidates **are** informed that an application for access arrangements will be processed using *Access arrangements online*
- Follows guidance in AARA (chapter 8) to process approval applications for access arrangements for those qualifications included
- Applies for approval where this is required, through *Access arrangements online* (AAO), or through the awarding body where qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO
- Ensures that were approval is required the application is processed on time and no later than the awarding body's published deadline
- Reviews the evidence before an online application is processed, ensuring that the candidate does meet the published criteria for the respective arrangement
- Ensures where JCQ forms are required to be completed, forms are signed (a handwritten, electronic or typed signature is acceptable) and dated as required **prior** to approval being sought and that the form is provided for processing and inspection purposes (This may be a hard copy paper version or an electronic version)
- Confirms by ticking the *'Confirmation'* box prior to submitting the application for approval that the *'malpractice consequence statement'* has been read and accepted
- Makes an *awarding body referral* through AAO where the initial application for approval may not be approved by AAO, where it is deemed by the centre that the candidate does meet the criteria for the arrangement(s)
- As may be applicable in relation to the use of coloured paper, explores alternative ways of working such as the use of a coloured overlay or the candidate wearing coloured glasses / the provision of a single colour, such as buff or grey
- Ensures that the full supporting evidence is in place before an online application is processed
- Maintains a file/e-folder for each candidate (the required documentation for a candidate will be in hard copy within the candidate's file/each of the required documents held electronically within the candidate's e-folder) that will include:
  - completed JCQ/awarding body application forms and evidence forms
  - appropriate evidence to support the need for the arrangement where required
  - appropriate evidence to support normal way of working within the centre
  - in addition, for those qualifications covered by AAO (where approval is required), a printout/PDF of the AAO approval

Exams officer (EO)
- Is familiar with the entire contents of the annually updated JCQ publication GR and is aware of information contained in AARA where this may be relevant to the EO role
- Liaises with teaching staff regarding any appropriate modified paper requirements for candidates
- Holds all supporting evidence and presents such evidence to a JCQ Centre Inspector upon request
- Ensures that the agreed adjustment has been put in place before the candidate's first examination, e.g. internal tests and mock examinations
- Ensures appropriate and required evidence is held on file to confirm validation responses in AAO including (where required) the completion of relevant JCQ forms, such as Form 8 (Application for access arrangements – Profile of learning difficulties), Form 9 (Profile of need), Form 8RF, etc. supplemented by written statements, where required, etc.
- Ensures the names of all other assessors, who are assessing candidates studying qualifications covered by AAO are entered into AAO to confirm their status
- Presents the files/e-folders when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and addresses any queries/questions raised

- If the SENCo is unavailable, presents the files/e-folders of access arrangements candidates when requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and addresses any queries/questions raised
- Liaises with the SENCo to ensure arrangements are in place to either order a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper (or to download a PDF copy of the standard question paper or to open a question paper packet in the secure room within 90 minutes of the awarding body's published starting time for the exam where the centre is permitted to modify a timetabled written component exam paper (copy on coloured paper, enlarge to A3 or copy to single sided print)
- Following the appropriate process, orders published modified papers, by the awarding body's deadline for the exam series, where these may be required for a candidate

Implementing access arrangements and the conduct of exams

Roles and responsibilities

External assessments

These are assessments which are normally set and marked/examined by an awarding body which must be conducted according to awarding body instructions and/or the JCQ publication Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE).

Head of centre
- Supports the SENCo, the exams officer and other relevant centre staff in ensuring appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Is familiar with the instructions for 'Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements' and 'Access arrangements' in ICE 2025-2026

ALS lead/SENCo
- Ensures appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for candidates where they are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act (unless a temporary emergency arrangement is required at the time of an exam)
- Ensures a candidate is involved in any decisions about arrangements, adjustments and/or adaptations that may be put in place for them and ensures the candidate understands what will happen at exam time
- Monitors, in internal tests/mock exams, the use of arrangements granted to a candidate and where a candidate has never made use of the arrangement, may consider withdrawing the arrangement, provided the candidate will not be placed at a substantial disadvantage
- Liaises with the exams officer (EO) regarding facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates in exams
- Liaises with the EO where a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of exams
- Is familiar with the instructions for 'Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements' and 'Access arrangements' in ICE 2025-2026

Exams officer
- Understands and follows instructions for Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements and Access arrangements in ICE 2025-2026
- Ensures exam information (JCQ information for candidates documents, individual exam timetable etc.) is adapted where this may be required for a disabled candidate to access it
- Ensures that prior to any arrangements being put in place checks are made that arrangements do not impact on any assessment criteria/competence standards being tested
- Ensures that any arrangements put in place do not unfairly disadvantage or advantage disabled candidates
- Liaises with other relevant centre staff regarding the provision of appropriate rooming and equipment that may be required to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Appoints appropriate centre staff as facilitators to support candidates (practical assistant, prompter, Language Modifier, reader, scribe or Sign Language Professional)

- Ensures facilitators supporting candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular access arrangement(s)
- Ensures a record of the content of training given to those facilitating an access arrangement for a candidate under examination conditions is kept and retained on file until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
- Ensures where a person is appointed to facilitate an access arrangement, the person appointed is not normally the candidate's own subject teacher, Learning Support Assistant or teaching assistant. Where the candidate's own subject teacher, Learning Support Assistant or teaching assistant has to be used, a separate invigilator is always present
- Ensures where a person is appointed to facilitate an access arrangement, the person appointed is not a relative, friend, peer or private tutor of the candidate
- Ensures a facilitator acting as a prompter is aware of the appropriate way to prompt depending on the needs of the candidate
- Ensures invigilators supervising access arrangement candidates are trained in their role and understand the invigilation arrangements required for access arrangement candidates and the role of any facilitator
- Ensures cover sheets, where these are required by the arrangement are completed as required by facilitators
- Liaises with the SENCo and other relevant centre staff to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Liaises with the SENCo to ensure exam information (JCQ information for candidates documents, individual exam timetable etc.) is adapted where this may be required for a disabled candidate to access it
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding the facilitation and invigilation of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with the SENCo regarding rooming of access arrangement candidates
- Liaises with the SENCo to ensure that invigilators are made aware of the Equality Act 2010 and are trained in disability issues
- Ensures appropriate seating arrangements are in place where different arrangements may need to be made for a candidate to facilitate access to his/her exams
- Ensures candidates with access arrangements are identified on exam room seating plans and invigilators are informed of those candidates with access arrangements and made aware of the access arrangement(s) awarded
- Ensures invigilators are briefed prior to each exam session of the arrangements in place for a disabled candidate in their exam room
- Checks in advance of dated exams/assessments that modified paper orders have arrived (and if not will contact the awarding body to ensure that papers are available when required)
- Makes modifications that are permitted by the centre (a question paper copied onto coloured paper, an A4 to A3 enlarged paper or a paper printed on single sheets or where a question paper may need to be scanned into PDF format where a candidate is approved the use of a computer reader) that may be required and either accesses a non-interactive electronic (PDF) question paper or opens the exam question paper packet in the secure room no earlier than 90 minutes prior to the awarding body's published start time of the exam
- Understands that where permitted/approved, a secure question paper packet may need to be opened early in the secure room to facilitate the following:
  - a Language Modifier may have access to the question paper 60 minutes prior to the awarding body's published start time for the exam in order to prepare
  - the Sign Language Professional may have access to the question paper 60 minutes prior to the awarding body's published start time for the exam in order to prepare
  - a Live Speaker may have access to the transcript of the Listening examination 60 minutes prior to the awarding body's published start time for the exam in order to prepare
- Provides cover sheets prior to the start of an exam where required for particular access arrangements and ensures that these have been fully completed before candidates' scripts are dispatched to examiners/markers

- prints pre-populated cover sheets from AAO where this is required for particular arrangements
- Has a process in place to deal with emergency (temporary) access arrangements as they arise at the time of exams in terms of rooming and invigilation
- Liaises with the SENCo where a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of exams
- Where required for emergency (temporary) access arrangements, applies for approval through AAO or through the awarding body where any qualifications sit outside the scope of AAO

Other relevant centre staff
- Support the SENCo and the exams officer to ensure appropriate arrangements, adjustments and adaptations are in place to facilitate access for disabled candidates to exams
- Is familiar with the instructions for 'Invigilation arrangements for candidates with access arrangements' and 'Access arrangements' in ICE 2025-2026
- Staff responsible for **IT or other specialist equipment** that may need to be provided or adapted for a candidate
- Estates/site staff responsible for **rooms and non-specialist equipment** (chairs, tables, clocks etc.) used for exams that may need to be adapted for a candidate
- Senior staff responsible for the centre's **emergency evacuation procedures** and the arrangements that may need to be in place for a candidate with a disability who may need assistance when an exam room is evacuated

Internal assessments

These are non-examination assessments (NEA) which are normally set by a centre/awarding body, marked and internally moderated/standardised by the centre and externally moderated by the awarding body.

However, 'NEA' is not limited to internal assessment as externally marked and/or externally set practical examinations taken at different times across centres are also classified as 'NEA'.

SENCo or equivalent role
- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Ensures centre-delegated and awarding body approved arrangements are in place prior to a candidate taking their first formal supervised assessment
- Ensures candidates are aware of the access arrangements that are in place for their assessments
- Ensures facilitators supporting candidates are appropriately trained and understand the rules of the particular access arrangement(s)
- Ensures cover sheets are completed as required by facilitators
- Liaises with the teacher where a facilitator may be required to support a candidate requiring an emergency (temporary) access arrangement at the time of their formal supervised assessment

Teaching staff
- Support the SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Ensures a candidate has had appropriate opportunities to practise using the access arrangement(s) before their first examination
- Provide the SENCo with assessment schedules to ensure arrangements are put in place when required
- Liaise with the SENCo regarding assessment materials that may need to be modified for a candidate

Internal exams/assessments

These are exams or tests which are set and marked within the centre; normally a pre-cursor to external assessments.

SENCo or equivalent role
- Liaises with teaching staff to implement appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Provide exam materials that may need to be modified for a candidate

Teaching staff

- Support the SENCo in implementing appropriate access arrangements for candidates
- Provide the SENCo with internal exam timetable to ensure arrangements are put in place when required

Facilitating access - examples

The following information confirms the centre's good practice in relation to the Equality Act 2010 and the conduct of examinations.

On a candidate by candidate basis, consideration is given to:
- adapting assessment arrangements
- adapting assessment materials
- the provision of specialist equipment or adaptation of standard equipment
- adaptation of the physical environment for access purposes

The table provides example arrangements, adjustments and adaptations that are considered to meet the need(s) of a candidate and the actions considered/taken by the centre for the purposes of facilitating access.

Example of candidate need(s)	Arrangements explored	Centre actions
A medical condition which prevents the candidate from taking exams in the centre	Alternative site for the conduct of examinations Supervised rest breaks	*SENCo gathers evidence to support the need for the candidate to take exams at home and for SRB*
		Pastoral head provides written statement for file to confirm the need
		Approval confirmed by SENCo; AAO approval for both arrangements not required
		Pastoral head discussion with candidate to confirm the arrangements which should be put in place
		EO submits 'Alternative site form' for timetabled written exams to awarding body/bodies online using CAP
		An on-line submission must only be made for timetabled written examinations in the following qualifications...
		EO provides candidate with exam timetable and JCQ information for candidates
		Pastoral head confirms with candidate the information is understood
		Pastoral head agrees with candidate that prior to each exam will call to confirm fitness to take exam
		EO allocates invigilator(s) to candidate's timetable; confirms time of collection of exam papers and materials
		Invigilator monitors candidate's condition for each exam and records any issues on incident log
		Invigilator records supervised rest breaks (time and duration) on incident log and confirms full time given for exam
		Invigilator briefs EO after each exam on how candidate's performance in exam may have been affected by his/her condition
		EO discusses with pastoral head if candidate is eligible for special consideration (candidate present but disadvantaged)
		EO processes request(s) for special consideration where applicable; incident log(s) provides supporting evidence, supported by appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team (Evidence retained until after the publication of results)
		Pastoral head informs candidate that special consideration has been requested

Persistent and significant difficulties in accessing written text	Reader/computer reader 25% Extra time Alternative rooming arrangements	*Confirms candidate is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010* *Papers checked for those testing reading* *Computer reader/examination reading pen sourced for use in papers (or sections of papers) testing reading OR up to 50% extra time awarded* *Candidate informed that an application for access arrangements will be processed using Access arrangements online* *AAO application for approval processed* *Supporting evidence and AAO approval kept on file*
Significant difficulty in concentrating	Prompter Alternative rooming arrangements	*Gathers evidence to support substantial and long term adverse impairment* *Candidate informed that an application for access arrangements will be processed using Access arrangements online* *AAO application for approval processed* *Supporting evidence and AAO approval kept on file* *Confirms with candidate how and when they will be prompted* *Briefs invigilator to monitor candidate and the method of prompting (call out his name to bring his attention back to the paper - confirms requirement for alternative room)*
A wheelchair user	Desk Rooms Facilities Seating arrangements Practical assistant	*Candidate informed that an application for access arrangements will be processed using Access arrangements online* *Applies for practical assistant to help candidate set up wheelchair and other equipment in a practical assessment; approval automatically fails so awarding body referral lists the tasks that will be performed* *Supporting evidence and AAO approval kept on file Provides height adjustable desk in exam room* *Allocates exam room on ground floor near adapted bathroom facilities* *Spaces desks to allow wheelchair access* *Seats candidate near exam room door* *Confirms arrangements in place to assist the candidate in case of emergency evacuation of the exam room* *Practical assistant cover sheet printed from AAO; to be completed by facilitator and inserted inside the candidate's work where this may be applicable to the assessment*

Appendix 1 – Word Processing Policy

Word Processing Policy (exams)

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls

Word Processing Policy (exams)

Centre name	King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls
Centre number	20267
Date policy first created	25/10/2023
Current policy approved by	James Cashmore
Current policy reviewed by	James Cashmore
Date of review	24/09/2025
Date of next review	24/09/2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Neil Jones
Senior leader(s)	David Chesterman
Exams officer	James Cashmore
SENCo (or equivalent role)	Marie Campbell
IT manager	David Moorcroft
Other staff (if applicable)	

This policy is reviewed and updated annually on the publication of updated JCQ regulations.

References in this policy to **AARA** and **ICE** relate to/are directly taken from the JCQ documents **Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments** and **Instructions for conducting examinations**.

Introduction

The use of a word processor in exams and assessments is an available access arrangement/reasonable adjustment.

The purpose of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing him/her from being placed at a substantial disadvantage as a consequence of persistent and significant difficulties.

The following principles are applied to access arrangements at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls: ·

- The purpose of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing them from being placed at a substantial disadvantage due to persistent and significant difficulties. The integrity of the assessment is maintained, whilst at the same time providing access to assessments for a disabled candidate.

  A centre must make decisions on appropriate access arrangements for their candidates. Although professionals from other organisations may give advice, they cannot make the decision for the centre. They will not have a working knowledge of an individual candidate's needs and how their difficulties impact in the classroom and/or in timed assessments. It is the responsibility of the SENCo to make appropriate and informed decisions based on the JCQ regulations. (AARA 4.2.1)

- Although access arrangements/adjustments are intended to allow access to assessments, they are not granted where they will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question. (AARA 4.2.2)

- Candidates may not require the same access arrangements/reasonable adjustments in each specification. Subjects and their methods of assessments may vary, leading to different demands of the candidate. SENCos (or equivalent role) must consider the need for access arrangements/reasonable adjustments on a subject-by-subject basis. (AARA 4.2.3)

- The SENCo (or equivalent role) must ensure that the proposed access arrangement/reasonable adjustment does not unfairly disadvantage or advantage a candidate. (AARA 4.2.1)

- The candidate must have had appropriate opportunities to practice using the access arrangement(s)/reasonable adjustments before their first examination. (AARA 4.2.7)

Purpose of the policy

This policy details how King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls complies with AARA, chapter 4 (Managing the needs of candidates - principles for centres), section 5.8 (Word processor) and ICE, sections 14.20-27 Word processors (computers, laptops and tablets) when awarding and allocating a candidate the use of word processor in examinations.

The term 'word processor' is used to describe for example, the use of a computer, laptop or tablet.

The criteria King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations and assessments

The 'normal way of working' for exam candidates, as directed by the head of centre, is that candidates handwrite their exams unless there are exceptions.

Exceptions

A candidate may be awarded the use of a word processor in examinations where:

- the candidate may have an approved access arrangement in place, for example the use of a scribe/speech recognition technology

- the candidate 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

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls will:

- allocate the use of a word processor to a candidate with the spelling and grammar check facility/predictive text switched off where it is their normal way of working within the centre (AARA 5.8.1)

- award the use of a word processor to candidates where appropriate to their needs (AARA 5.8.4). For example, a candidate with a learning difficulty which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his/her ability to write legibly; a medical condition; a physical disability; a sensory impairment; planning and organisational problems when writing by hand; poor handwriting (This list is not exhaustive)

- only permit the use of a word processor where the integrity of the assessment can be maintained (AARA 4.2.1)

- not grant the use of a word processor where it will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question (AARA 4.2.2)

- consider on a subject-by-subject basis if the candidate will need to use a word processor in each specification (AARA 4.2.3)

- process access arrangements/reasonable adjustments at the start of the course, or as soon as practicable having firmly established a picture of need and normal way of working, ensuring arrangements are always approved before an examination or assessment (AARA 4.2.4)

- provide the use of word processors to candidates in non-examination assessment components as standard practice unless prohibited by the specification (AARA 5.8.2)

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls will not:

- simply grant the use of a word processor to a candidate because they now want to type rather than write in examinations or can work faster on a keyboard, or because they use a laptop at home (AARA 5.8.4)

Additionally the use of a word processor would be considered for a candidate:

- in the event of 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 (AARA 4.2.4)

- where the curriculum is delivered electronically and the centre provides word processors to all candidates (AARA 5.8.4)

Other centre specific information relating to the use of a word processor:

Exam account details are kept secure on shared area, a specific laptop is alloacted for exams that has certain features locked down, such as the internet. The user will also be in a seperate smaller area where they can be invigilated on a more 1 to 1 basis.

Arrangements at the time of the assessment for the use of a word processor

A candidate using a word processor is accommodated as follows:

- A candidate using a word processor is normally accommodated in a different room with other word processor candidates.

In compliance with the regulations, King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls:

- provides a word processor with the spelling and grammar check and predictive text switched off, unless an awarding body's specification says otherwise (ICE 14.20)

- (where a candidate is to be seated with the main cohort without the use of a power point) checks the battery capacity of a laptop or tablet before the candidate's exam to ensure that the battery is sufficiently charged for the entire duration of the exam (ICE 14.21)

- ensures the candidate is reminded to ensure that the centre number, candidate number and the unit or component code appear on each page as a header or footer e.g. 12345/8001 – 6391/01 (ICE 14.22)

- if a candidate is using a software application that does not allow for the insertion of a header or footer, once the candidate has completed the examination and printed off their typed script, they are instructed to handwrite their details as a header or footer; the candidate is supervised throughout this process to ensure that they are solely performing this task and not re-reading their answers or amending their work in any way (ICE 14.22)

- ensures the candidate understands that each page of the typed script must be numbered, e.g. page 1 of 6 (ICE 14.23)

- ensures the candidate is reminded to save their work at regular intervals (or where possible, an IT technician will set up 'autosave' on each laptop or tablet to ensure that if there is a complication or technical issue, the candidate's work is not lost) (ICE 14.24)

- instructs the candidate to use a minimum of 12pt font and double spacing to make marking easier for examiners (ICE 14.24)

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls will ensure the word processor:

(ICE 14.25)

- is only used in a way that ensures a candidate's script is produced under secure conditions

- is not used to perform skills which are being assessed

- is in good working order at the time of the exam

- is accommodated in such a way that other candidates are not disturbed and cannot read the screen

- is used as a typewriter, not as a database, although standard formatting software is acceptable

- is cleared of any previously stored data

- does not give the candidate access to other applications such as a calculator (where prohibited in the examination), e-mail, the Internet, social media sites or spreadsheets

- does not include graphic packages or computer aided design software unless permission has been given to use these

- does not have any predictive text software or an automatic spelling and grammar check enabled unless the candidate has been permitted a scribe (a scribe cover sheet must be completed), or the awarding body's specification permits the use of automatic spell checking

- does not include computer reading (text to speech) software unless the candidate has permission to use a computer reader

- does not include speech recognition technology unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe (a scribe cover sheet must be completed)

-

- is not used on the candidate's behalf by a third party unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe (a scribe cover sheet must be completed)

Portable storage medium

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls will ensure that any portable storage medium (e.g. a memory stick) used:

(ICE 14.25)

- is provided by the centre
- is cleared of any previously stored data

Printing the script after the exam has ended

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls will ensure:

(ICE 14.25)

- the word processor is either connected to a printer so that a script can be printed off, or have the facility to print from a portable storage medium
- the candidate is present to verify that the work printed is their own
- a word-processed script is attached to any answer booklet which contains some of the answers
- where an awarding body may require a word processor cover sheet, this is included with the candidate's typed script (and according to the relevant awarding body's instructions) (ICE 14.26)
- if a candidate omits to insert the required header or footer, they are instructed to handwrite the details as a header or footer; the candidate is supervised throughout this process to ensure that they are solely performing this task and not re-reading their answers or amending their work in any way (ICE 14.22)

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls:

- may retain electronic copies of word-processed scripts as the electronic copy of a word-processed script may be accepted by an awarding body where the printed copy has been lost. However, the centre would need to demonstrate to the awarding body that the electronic file has been kept securely. The head of centre would be required to confirm this in writing to the awarding body (ICE 14.27)

Other centre-specific information relating to arrangements at the time of the assessment:

School will ensure the word processor is either connected to a printer so that a script can be printed off, or have the facility to print from a portable storage medium.

The candidate is present to verify that the work printed is his or her own

A word-processed script is attached to any answer booklet which contains some of the answers.

A word processor cover sheet, if required by the Awarding Body, is completed and included with the candidate's typed script (according to the relevant awarding body's instructions)

Allocating word processors at the time of the assessment

Appropriate exam-compliant word processors will be allocated by:

- the IT department in liaison with the SENCo (or equivalent role) and the exams officer

In exceptional circumstances where the number of compliant word processors may be insufficient for the cohort of candidates approved to use them in an exam session:

- the cohort will be split into two groups

- one group will sit the exam earlier than or later than the awarding body's published start time

- the security of the exam will be maintained at all times and candidates will be supervised in line with ICE 7

Other centre-specific information relating to allocating the use of a word processor:

Where appropriate, internet is disabled, with access only to Microsoft Office and calculator.

Changes 2025/2026

(Added) To reflect the change in ICE (14.25), a new bullet point (66) has been added - ensuring the word processor does not include AI tools

Centre-specific changes

more detail added.