



# Conflicts of Interest Policy (Exams)

Policy/Procedure creator: Mrs Jill Thomson

Policy/Procedure created/reviewed: 17/11/2022

Centre Name	St. Francis' College
Centre Number	17425
Date policy first created	17/11/2022
Current policy reviewed by	Mr James Nichols
Current policy approved by	Mr James Nichols
Date of next review	November 2023

## Key staff involved in the policy

Head of centre	Mr James Nichols
Senior leader(s)	Mr James Nichols, Mrs Julia Spence, Mr dan Carr, Mrs Ruth Scott
Exams officer	Mrs Jill Thomson
Other staff (if applicable)	Senior teaching staff

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that conflicts of interest at St. Francis' College are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

Reference in the policy to **GR** relates to relevant sections of the current JCQ publication **General Regulations for Approved Centres**.

## Introduction

It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that St. Francis' College:

- 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 clear 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 policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm how St. Francis' College manages conflicts of interest under normal delivery arrangements in accordance with the regulations.

## General principles

A process is in place to collect details on any member of staff who may have a conflict of interest. From All centre staff to At the start of each year, the HoC asks all staff to declare whether they have a conflict of interest (as detailed above)

The HoC produces a document with all of the staff in this situation on it.

## Declaration process

An email is sent to all staff asking them to declare any conflict of interest.

The centre staff reply to the HoC who records this data.

## 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.

### Additional information:

N/A

## Roles and responsibilities

## **The role of the head of centre**

- Ensure conflicts of interest are managed according to the requirements (GR 5.3)
- Ensure clear 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 (GR 5.3)
- Ensure the records are available where they may be requested by a JCQ Centre Inspector and/or awarding body staff (GR 5.3)
- Ensure 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 (GR 5.3)
- Ensure 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

Ensure 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

Ensure 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 (GR 5.3)

Additional responsibilities:

N/A

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

- The EO reminds the HoC to record conflicts of interest.
- The HoC follows 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 (GR 5.3)

- The HoC retains 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 results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later (GR 5.3)

Additional responsibilities:

N/A

CHANGES 2022/2023

No changes applicable

CENTRE-SPECIFIC CHANGES

N/A