



George Stephenson
High School

MALPRACTICE AND MALADMINISTRATION POLICY 2020-2021

Governance	Governing Body
Policy Officer	Assistant Head Teacher (Data)
Adopted Date	September 2020
Next Review Date	September 2021

Purpose of the Policy

Malpractice refers to any deliberate act or practice which compromises, or threatens to compromise the process and integrity of assessment, and as a result the validity of the result or certificate awarded.

Assessment processes and outcomes can also be put at risk through maladministration; whilst malpractice is a deliberate act, maladministration may be accidental or a result of incompetence or a simple mistake.

The policy sets out to define the procedures to be followed in the event of any dispute or allegation regarding staff malpractice in the assessment of internally marked qualifications and also regarding examinations invigilated by staff at George Stephenson High school and marked externally.

It is a JCQ requirement that all heads of centres have a responsibility to report to the relevant awarding body any suspected cases of malpractice involving candidates, teachers, invigilators or other administrative staff. This responsibility is set out in detail in the JCQ publication *Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments: Policies and Procedures*.

Failing to report an instance of suspected malpractice in examinations or assessments to the appropriate awarding body as soon as possible after such an instance occurs, or is discovered **is in itself malpractice**

Definitions:

Learner malpractice: any action by the learner which has the potential to undermine the integrity and validity of the assessment of the learner's work (plagiarism, collusion, cheating, etc.)

Assessor malpractice: any deliberate action by an assessor which has the potential to undermine the integrity of BTEC qualifications.

Plagiarism: taking and using another's thoughts, writings, inventions, etc. as one's own.

Minor acts of learner malpractice: handled by the assessor by, for example, refusal to accept work for marking and learner being made aware of malpractice policy. Learner resubmits work in question.

Major acts of learner malpractice: extensive copying/plagiarism, second or subsequent offence, inappropriate for the assessor to deal with. To be referred to the Programme Leader and subsequently the Quality Nominee.

Responsibilities

Centre: should seek proactive ways to promote a positive culture that encourages learners to take individual responsibility for their learning and respect the work of others.

Assessor: responsible for designing assessment opportunities which limit the opportunity for malpractice and for checking the validity of the learner's work.

Internal Verifier/Lead Internal Verifier: responsible for malpractice checks when internally verifying work.

Quality Nominee: required to inform Edexcel of any acts of malpractice.

Heads of Centre: responsible for any investigation into allegations of malpractice.

Procedures

Addressing learner malpractice:

- Promote positive and honest study practices.
- Learners should declare that work is their own: check the validity of their work.
- Use learner induction and handbook to inform about malpractice and outcomes.
- Ensure learners use appropriate citations and referencing for research sources.
- Assessment procedures should help reduce and identify malpractice.

Addressing staff malpractice:

- Staff BTEC induction and updating should include BTEC requirements.
- Use robust internal verification and audited record keeping.
- Audit learner records, assessment tracking records and certification claims.
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Dealing with malpractice:

- Inform the individual of the issues and of the possible consequences.
- Inform the individual of the process and appeals rights.
- Give the individual the opportunity to respond.
- Investigate in a fair and equitable manner.
- Inform Edexcel of any malpractice or attempted acts of malpractice, which have compromised assessment. Edexcel will advise on further action required.
- Penalties should be appropriate to the nature of the malpractice under review.
- Gross misconduct should refer to learner and staff disciplinary procedures.

To protect the integrity of George Stephenson High School and BTEC qualifications, the school will:

- Seek to avoid potential malpractice by using the induction period and relevant documentation to inform learners of the school's policy on malpractice and the penalties for attempted and actual incidents of malpractice.
- Show learners the appropriate formats to record cited texts and other materials or information sources.
- Ask learners to declare that their work is their own.
- Ask learners to provide evidence that they have interpreted and synthesised appropriate information and acknowledged any sources used.
- Conduct an investigation into the nature of the malpractice allegation. Such an investigation will be supported by the Senior Leadership Team and all personnel linked to the allegation. It will proceed through the following stages:
- Make the individual fully aware at the earliest opportunity of the nature of the alleged malpractice and of the possible consequences should malpractice be proven.
- Give the individual the opportunity to respond to the allegations made.
- Inform the individual of the avenues for appealing against any judgement made.

All staff have a professional duty to ensure that they uphold this policy. Whilst the policy sets out general principles in addition staff must also ensure that they abide by the specific assessment requirements for each course as laid down by the awarding organisation for each subject specification.