



Appeals against Internal Assessments Policy

Stafford Grammar School

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Centre name	Stafford Grammar School
Centre number	30432
Date procedure first created	30/09/2025
Current procedure approved by	Headmaster
Current procedure reviewed by	Jane Stace
Date of next review	30/09/2026

Key staff involved in the procedure

Role	Name
Head of centre	Nick Pietrek
Senior leader(s)	Paul Johnson Richard Green
Exams officer	Jane Stace
Other staff (if applicable)	Colin Anderson

This procedure is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that appeals against internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks) at Stafford Grammar School are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations in the JCQ publications **General Regulations for Approved Centres** (GR 5.7), **Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments** (ICNEA 6.1). This procedure is also informed by the JCQ publications **Reviews of marking (centre assessed marks) suggested template for centres** and **Notice to Centres - Informing candidates of their centre assessed marks**.

Introduction

Certain qualifications contain components of non-examination assessment (or units of coursework) which are internally assessed (marked) by Stafford Grammar School and internally reviewed/standardised. The marks awarded (the internal assessment decisions) which contribute to the final grade of the qualification are then submitted by the deadline set by the awarding body for external moderation.

The moderation process carried out by the awarding body may result in a mark change, either upwards or downwards, even after an internal review. The internal review process is in place to ensure consistency of marking within the centre, whereas moderation by the awarding body ensures that centre marking is in line with national standards. The mark submitted to the awarding body is subject to change and should therefore be considered provisional.

The qualifications delivered at Stafford Grammar School containing components of non-examination assessment/units of coursework are: GCSE and A-Level qualifications

Purpose of the procedure

The purpose of this procedure is to confirm the arrangements at Stafford Grammar School for dealing with candidate appeals relating to internal assessment decisions.

This procedure ensures compliance with JCQ regulations which state that centres must:

- have in place and be available for inspection, a written internal appeals procedure relating to internal assessment decisions and to ensure that details of this procedure are communicated, made widely available and accessible to all candidates
- before submitting marks to the awarding body the centre will inform candidates of their centre assessed marks and allow a candidate to request a review of the centre's marking . At Stafford Grammar School this will take place after internal moderation has taken place

Principles relating to centre assessed marks

The head of centre/senior leader(s) at Stafford Grammar School will ensure that the following principles are in place in relation to marking the work of candidates:

- A commitment to ensuring that whenever teaching staff mark candidates' work, that this is done fairly, consistently and in accordance with the awarding body's specification and subject-specific associated documents
- All centre staff follow a robust Non-examination Assessment Policy (for the management of non examination assessments). This policy details all procedures relating to non-examination assessments for relevant qualifications delivered in the centre, including the marking and quality assurance/internal standardisation

processes which relevant teaching staff are required to follow

- Candidates' work will be marked by staff who have appropriate knowledge, understanding and skill, and who have been trained in this activity
- A commitment to ensuring that work produced by candidates is authenticated in line with the requirements of the awarding body. Where more than one subject teacher/tutor is involved in marking candidates' work, internal moderation and standardisation will ensure consistency of marking
- On being informed of their centre assessed mark(s), if candidates believes that the above procedures were not followed in relation to the marking of their work, or that the assessor has not properly applied the marking standards to their marking, then they may make use of the internal appeals procedure below to consider whether to request a review of the centre's marking

Procedure for appealing internal assessment decisions (centre assessed marks)

The head of centre/senior leader(s) at Stafford Grammar School will:

- Ensure that candidates are informed of their centre assessed marks by **Friday 17th April 2026** so that they may request a review of the centre's marking before marks are submitted to the awarding body. The exception to this is subjects with a later deadline e.g. Art

There should be an initial opportunity for the candidate to ask their teacher why they have been awarded a particular mark and to have their mark and the justification for it explained to them against the criteria on the mark scheme.

- Inform candidates that they will need to explain on what grounds they wish to request a review of an internally assessed mark as a review will only focus on the quality of work submitted. The review will be carried out by an assessor who has not previously been involved with the assessment of the work. The candidate should be aware that marks may go up, remain the same or go down.
- Inform candidates that they may request copies of materials (a copy of the marked assessment material (work) and the mark scheme or assessment criteria plus additional materials which may vary from subject to subject) to assist them in considering whether to request a review of the centre's marking of the assessment. This request should be made by **Tuesday 21st April 2026**.
- Having received a request for copies of materials, promptly make them available to the candidate (for some marked assessment materials, such as artwork and recordings, inform the candidate that the originals will be shared under supervised conditions) within the period of time as specified by **Friday 24th April 2026**
- Provide candidates with sufficient time (3 working days) to allow them to review copies of materials and reach a decision, informing candidates that if their decision is to request a review, they will need to explain what they believe the issue to be.
- Provide a clear deadline of **Thursday 30th April 2026** for candidates to submit a request for a review of the centre's marking and confirm understanding that requests must be made in writing and will not be accepted after this deadline.
- Require candidates to make requests for a review of centre marking by writing a letter to the Headmaster.
- Allow sufficient time for the review to be carried out within 5 working days to make any necessary changes to

marks and to inform the candidate of the outcome, all before the awarding body's deadline for the submission of marks on **Friday 15th May 2025**.

- Ensure that the review of marking is conducted by an assessor who has appropriate competence, has had no previous involvement in the assessment of that candidate for the component in question and has no personal interest in the outcome of the review.
- Instruct the reviewer to ensure that the candidate's mark is consistent with the standard set by the centre
- Inform the candidate in writing of the outcome of the review of the centre's marking
- Ensure the outcome of the review of the centre's marking is made known to the head of centre who will have the final decision if there is any disagreement on the mark to be submitted to the awarding body
- Ensure a written record of the review is kept and made available to the awarding body upon request
- Ensure the awarding body is informed if the candidate does not accept the outcome of a review

If a student is ultimately dissatisfied with the published result of their NEA (coursework) the centre would expect that they had first sought an individual review of their internal mark since they cannot ask for the NEA to be reviewed by the exam boards. A review of the internal moderation process is a decision taken by the Head of Department/ SLT and cannot be requested by an individual student after results have been issued.