

# Exams Malpractice Policy

## 2025/26

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Approved/reviewed by	
M Goulborn	
Date of next review	January 2027

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name(s)
Exams Officer	<b>C Mudie</b>
Senior leader(s)	<b>L Starr, S French, S Kennedy, M McGarrity</b>
Head of centre	<b>M Goulborn</b>
Subject Leaders	M De Salas, P Sharma, H Reid, A Zschaler, E Hughes, K Owen, C Kimbangi, C Thompson, A Lopes, S Kennedy, J Milne, A Cotton, J Mark, A Ellis

## **Purpose of the policy**

This policy details the procedures of Christ's College Guildford for dealing with suspected malpractice and breaches of security in the examinations process in accordance with the requirements of JCQ Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures ([SM<sup>1</sup>](#))

This policy deals with suspected candidate malpractice and suspected centre staff malpractice.

## **Malpractice**

JCQ define malpractice any act, default or practice which is:

- a breach of the Regulations; and/or
- a breach of awarding body requirements regarding how a qualification should be delivered; and/or
- a failure to follow established procedures in relation to a qualification; which:
  - gives rise to prejudice to candidates; and/or
  - compromises public confidence in qualifications; and/or
  - compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of a result or certificate; and/or
  - damages the authority, reputation or credibility of any awarding body or centre or any officer, employee or agent of any awarding body or centre.

Malpractice can occur in a range of circumstances:

- Intentional – incidents are carried out purposefully with the aim to give unfair advantage in an examination or assessment;
- Unintentional – incidents arise due to a lack of awareness, carelessness, or forgetfulness in applying regulations;
- Environmental – incidents occur as a result of circumstances which are beyond the control of the people involved (e.g. supervision of candidates is disrupted by an emergency alarm).

## **1. Candidate Malpractice**

### **1.1 Examples of candidate malpractice** (this list is not exhaustive):

- the alteration or falsification of any results document, including certificates;
- a breach of the instructions or advice of an invigilator, supervisor, or the awarding body in relation to the examination or assessment rules and regulations;
- failing to abide by the conditions of supervision designed to maintain the security of the examinations or assessments;
- collusion: working collaboratively with other candidates, beyond what is permitted;
- copying from another candidate (including the use of technology to aid the copying);
- allowing work to be copied, e.g. posting work on social networking sites prior to an examination/assessment;
- the deliberate destruction of another candidate's work;

- disruptive behaviour in the examination room or during an assessment session (including the use of offensive language);
- failing to report to the centre or awarding body the candidate having unauthorised access to assessment related information or sharing unauthorised assessment related information on-line;
- exchanging, obtaining, receiving, passing on information (or the attempt to) which could be assessment related by means of talking, electronic, written or non-verbal communication;
- making a false declaration of authenticity in relation to the authorship of controlled assessment, coursework, non-examination assessment or the contents of a portfolio;
- allowing others to assist in the production of controlled assessment, coursework, non examination assessment or assisting others in the production of controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment;
- the misuse, or the attempted misuse, of examination and assessment materials and resources (e.g. exemplar materials);
- being in possession of unauthorised confidential information about an examination or assessment;
- bringing into the examination room notes in the wrong format (where notes are permitted in examinations) or inappropriately annotated texts (in open book examinations);
- the inclusion of inappropriate, offensive, obscene, homophobic, transphobic, racist or sexist material in scripts, controlled assessments, coursework, non-examination assessments or portfolios;
- impersonation: pretending to be someone else, arranging for another person to take one's place in an examination or an assessment;
- plagiarism: unacknowledged copying from, or reproduction of, the work of others or published sources or incomplete referencing;
- theft of another candidate's work;
- bringing into the examination room or assessment situation unauthorised material, for example: notes, study guides and personal organisers, own blank paper, calculators (when prohibited), dictionaries (when prohibited), instruments which can capture a digital image, electronic dictionaries (when prohibited), translators, wordlists, glossaries, iPods, mobile phones, MP3/4 players, pagers, watches or other similar electronic devices;
- the unauthorised use of a memory stick or similar device where a candidate uses a word processor;
- facilitating malpractice on the part of other candidates;
- behaving in a manner so as to undermine the integrity of the examination.
- **Malpractice also includes inappropriate AI use.** There is a quick guide available to help you to better understand the rules for use of AI in assessments. Please go to the **AI and Assessments Poster**, which can be found on the Christ's College Exams website page in the 'Joint Council For

Qualifications (JCQ) And Candidate Exam Information' section.

<https://www.christscollege.surrey.sch.uk/exams>

This guide will explain what AI is, how it can be misused in assessments, how to make sure you don't misuse AI and what happens if you do. REMEMBER Misusing AI is cheating! Know the rules, talk to your teachers and reference clearly

As required by the awarding bodies, Christ's College will ensure that any cases of alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice before, during or after examinations/assessments are investigated and reported to the awarding body immediately.

To maintain the integrity of qualifications, strict Regulations are in place. Malpractice means any act or practice which is in breach of the Regulations. Any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice will be investigated and reported to the relevant awarding body/bodies.

JCQ provides information regarding what constitutes malpractice:

- Introduction of unauthorised material into the examination room
- Breaches of examination conditions
- Exchanging, obtaining, receiving, or passing on information which could be examination related (or the attempt to)
- Offences relating to the content of candidates' work
- Undermining the integrity of examinations/assessments

Where a candidate commits malpractice, the awarding body may decide to penalise the candidate which could include anything from a warning, loss of marks/disqualification for components/units, or disqualification from a whole qualification.

and/or for non-examination assessments and coursework:

Research and using references

...Where computer-generated content has been used (such as an AI Chatbot), your reference must show the name of the AI bot used and should show the date the content was generated. For example: ChatGPT 3.5 (<https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/>), 25/01/2025. You must submit a copy of the computer-generated content with your work for reference and authentication purposes.

If you copy the words, ideas or outputs of others and do not show your sources in references and a bibliography, this will be considered as cheating.

For further information, you can refer to Christ's College's **Exams Malpractice Policy** available on the school's website: <https://www.christscollege.surrey.sch.uk/assets/Exams-Malpractise-Policy-2024-25.pdf>

## 1.2 Dealing with Suspected Candidate Malpractice

Anyone suspected of Malpractice, will receive a **SUSPECTED MALPRACTICE: CANDIDATE NOTIFICATION FORM**.

### a) Internally Marked NEA, Controlled Assessment or Portfolio Assignment

If a member of staff suspects a candidate of malpractice, the candidate will be informed and the allegations will be explained. The candidate will have the opportunity to give a statement before any final decision is made. If the candidate accepts that malpractice has occurred and has not yet signed a candidate declaration, they will be given the opportunity to repeat the

assignment. If the malpractice is proven following the investigation, centre staff may decide to re-mark previous assignments and these could also be rejected if similar concerns are identified.

If malpractice is discovered after a candidate has signed a declaration this will be reported to the Awarding Body in accordance with [SM<sup>1</sup>](#) (as for externally marked examinations below).

#### b) Externally Marked Examinations

If a member of staff suspects a candidate of malpractice during an externally marked examination, the candidate will be informed and an investigation will be undertaken by the Exams Officer.

All cases of suspected candidate malpractice will be reported to the Awarding Body in accordance with JCQ regulations and requirements.

As part of the investigation the candidate will be:

- informed of the allegation made against them -
- informed what evidence there is to support the allegation
- informed of the possible consequences should the malpractice be proven
- given the opportunity to consider their response to the allegation
- given the opportunity to submit a written statement
- informed of the Awarding Body outcome
- informed of the applicable appeals procedure should a decision be made against them

### 1.3 Sanctions for Candidate Malpractice

Where a candidate has been reported to an Awarding Body for suspected malpractice which is subsequently proven, the following sanctions may be imposed:

- **Warning:** the candidate will be issued with a warning that if the offence is repeated within a set period of time, further specified sanctions will be applied
- **Loss of marks for a section:** the candidate loses all the marks gained for a discrete section of the work. A section may be part of a component or a single piece of controlled assessment if this consists of several items.
- **Loss of marks for a component:** the candidate loses all the marks gained for a component
- **Disqualification from a whole qualification:** The candidate is disqualified from the whole qualification taken in the exam series or academic year
- **Disqualification from all qualifications taken in the exam series:** If circumstances suggest, the above penalty may be applied to other qualifications
- **Candidate debarred:** The candidate is barred from entering one or more examinations for a set period of time. This penalty may be applied in conjunction with any of the other penalties above if the circumstances warrant it.

## **1.4 Right to Appeal – Candidate Malpractice**

A candidate may appeal against sanctions imposed on them. Appeals will be made by the centre on behalf of a candidate and conducted in accordance with the JCQ Suspected Malpractice in Examinations and Assessments Policies and Procedures and Awarding Body Procedures.

## **2. Centre Staff Malpractice**

### **2.1 Examples of centre staff malpractice (this list is not exhaustive):**

- Breach of security
- Deception
- Improper assistance to candidates
- Failure to cooperate with an investigation
- Maladministration

### **2.2 Dealing with Suspected Candidate Malpractice**

Investigations into allegations will be coordinated by the Head of Centre, who will ensure the initial investigation is carried out within ten working days and in accordance with the JCQ regulations and requirements.

The investigation will involve establishing the full facts and circumstances of any alleged malpractice. It should not be assumed that because an allegation has been made, it is true. Where appropriate, the staff member concerned and any potential witnesses will be interviewed and their version of events recorded.

The member of staff will be:

- informed in writing of the allegation made against them
  - informed what evidence there is to support the allegation
  - informed of the possible consequences, should malpractice be proven
  - given the opportunity to consider their response to the allegations
  - given the opportunity to submit a written statement
  - given the opportunity to seek advice (as necessary) and to provide a supplementary statement (if required)
  - informed of the applicable appeals procedure, should a decision be made against them
- informed of the possibility that information relating to a serious case of malpractice will be shared with the relevant awarding body and may be shared with other awarding bodies, the regulators Ofqual, the police and/or relevant professional bodies

If work is submitted for moderation/verification or for marking which is not the candidate's own, the awarding body may not be able to issue a result for that candidate.

## 2.3 Sanctions for Centre Staff Malpractice

Where a member of staff has been reported to an Awarding Body for suspected malpractice which is subsequently proven, the following sanctions may be imposed:

- **Written warning:** the member of staff will be issued with a written warning stating that if the offence is repeated within a set period of time, further specified sanctions will be applied
- **Training:** the member of staff will be required, as a condition of future involvement in both internal and external assessments, to undertake specific training or mentoring, within a particular period of time, including a review process at the end of the training
- **Special conditions:** Impose special conditions on the future involvement in assessments by the member of staff
- **Suspension:** Bar the member of staff in all involvement in the administration of assessments for a set period of time
- **Dismissal:** Should the degree of malpractice be deemed gross professional misconduct; the member of staff could face dismissal from their post

## 2.4 Right to Appeal – Centre Staff Malpractice

The member of staff may appeal against sanctions imposed on them. Appeals will be conducted in accordance with JCQ regulations and requirements.

## 2.5 Updating Assessment Records with Details of Improper Assistance

Assessment records will be updated to reflect any instances of improper assistance. This includes documenting the nature of the assistance, the individuals involved, and the impact on the assessment. This documentation will be thorough and stored securely to maintain the integrity of the assessment process.

## 2.6 Reporting Suspected Malpractice

- Staff and Centre Malpractice/Maladministration: All incidents of suspected malpractice or maladministration by staff or the centre will be reported to the awarding organisation. This ensures transparency and maintains the integrity of the qualification process.
- Candidate Malpractice After Declaration of Authentication: If suspected candidate malpractice is identified after the candidate has signed the declaration of authentication, it will be reported to the awarding organisation immediately. This includes providing full details of the case and any supporting documentation.
- Candidate Malpractice Before Declaration of Authentication: Suspected candidate malpractice identified before the candidate has signed the declaration

of authentication does not need to be reported to the awarding body. Instead, it will be handled according to the Christ's College's internal malpractice policy.

## **2.7 Awareness of AI Use and Misuse**

- Teachers, Assessors, and Staff: Teachers, assessors, and other relevant staff are made aware of the appropriate use of AI and their role in managing the risk of AI misuse through regular training sessions, workshops, and updates to Christ's College's policies. This ensures they understand the implications of AI misuse and are equipped to identify and address it.
- Students: Students are informed about the appropriate use of AI and the risks of AI misuse through orientation sessions, classroom discussions, and written guidelines. This helps them understand the importance of submitting their own work and the consequences of AI misuse.

## **2.8 Ensuring Authenticity of Student Work**

To ensure that the work accepted for assessment is authentically the student's own, Christ's College can implement several approaches:

1. In-Class Assessments: Conducting assessments in a controlled environment where students complete their work under supervision.
2. Plagiarism Detection Software: Using software to check for similarities between student submissions and existing sources.
3. Regular Check-Ins: Teachers can have regular check-ins with students to discuss their progress and understanding of the material.
4. Authentic Assignments: Designing assignments that require students to apply their knowledge to real-world problems, making it harder to use AI-generated content.

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SM<sup>1</sup> [https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Malpractice\\_Sep24\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Malpractice_Sep24_FINAL.pdf)