

Food and Drink Policy (Exams)

The Hart School

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Centre name	The Hart School
Centre number	30385
Date policy first created	06/09/2023
Current policy approved by	Jude Mahon - Vice Principal
Current policy reviewed by	Jude Mahon - Vice Principal
Date of review	18/09/2026
Date of next review	18/09/2027

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	**Name**
Head of centre	Rachael Sandham
Senior leader(s)	Anita Cleary / Ben Brennan / Heidi Goodall / Jude Mahon / Louisa Burnett / Nathan Lewis / Sandip Dosanjh / Shara Davis
Exams Officer	Fran Kinnstein
Other staff (if applicable)	

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that food and drink in the examination room at The Hart School is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations and reflects centre practice.

References in this policy to ICE refer to the JCQ publication **Instructions for conducting examinations**.

Purpose of the policy

This policy confirms that The Hart School reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow food and drink in the examination room, and confirms:

- the correct procedures are followed regarding food and drink in the examination room
- appropriate arrangements are in place for the management of food and drink in the examination room

1. Food and drink in the examination room

- Food and drink is allowed in the examination room at the discretion of the head of centre (ICE 18.4)

To enable invigilators to check these items quickly and efficiently:

- food brought into the examination room by the candidate must be free of packaging and in a transparent container
- drink bottles must be transparent with all labels removed, which would include transparent, reusable plastic bottles (ICE 18.4)

The following arrangements are applied at The Hart School:

Candidates are not permitted to bring any form of food or sweets into the exam room unless for recognised and validated medical reasons.

Water or flavoured water (squash) is allowed to be taken in and placed on desks in a clear plastic bottle as long as all labels and covering has been removed prior to entering the exam room.

Additional centre-specific arrangements:

Not applicable

2. Roles and responsibilities

The role of the exams office

- Through briefings, ensure candidates are aware of the regulations, and centre-specific arrangements, relating to food and drink in the examination room
- Ensure invigilators are trained and aware of the regulations/centre-specific arrangements relating to food and drink in the examination room
- Escalate any issue or breach of centre-specific arrangements to the relevant senior leader for the application of internal sanction(s)
- Escalate any breach of JCQ regulations immediately to the head of centre (a breach of the regulations constitutes suspected or actual malpractice)

Additional responsibilities:

Not applicable

The role of the invigilator

- Be vigilant in the examination room and remain aware of incidents or emerging situations, looking out for malpractice (ICE 20.2)
- Record what has happened and actions taken using an incident log in relation to any breach of regulations/centre-specific arrangements regarding food and drink in the examination room (ICE 20.2)

Additional responsibilities:

Not applicable

The role of the head of centre

- Report to the awarding body immediately all cases of alleged, suspected or actual malpractice in connection with the examination (ICE 24.3)

Additional responsibilities:

Not applicable

Changes effective from 1 September 2026

In terms of JCQ regulations (effective from 1 September 2026), no changes are applicable to this policy.

Centre-specific changes

Upon review in September 2026, no changes or updates were applicable to this policy.