

Alternative Rooming Arrangements Policy (Exams)

The Hart School

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Centre name	The Hart School
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Date policy first created	06/09/2023
Current policy approved by	Jude Mahon - Vice Principal
Current policy reviewed by	Jude Mahon - Vice Principal
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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 Davies
Exams Officer	Fran Kinnstein
SENCo (or equivalent role)	Louise Taylor
Other staff (if applicable)	

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that alternative rooming arrangements at The Hart School are awarded and managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations and reflects centre practice.

References in this policy to AARA and ICE refer to the JCQ documents **Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments** and **Instructions for conducting examinations**.

Introduction

Alternative rooming arrangements (for example, a room for a smaller group of candidates with similar needs) is an available access arrangement as defined in the JCQ regulations. This is an arrangement where a candidate with an established difficulty may be eligible to take their examinations in a smaller environment away from the main examination room.

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the criteria when these arrangements may be considered and granted for a candidate at The Hart School in compliance with the regulations.

1. Decisions on the awarding of the arrangement

At The Hart School, decisions on the awarding of the arrangement are made by: Rachael Sandham (Principal) and Louise Taylor (SENDCo)

Decisions are based on:

- Whether the candidate has a substantial and long-term impairment which has an adverse effect (AARA 5.16)
- The candidate's normal way of working within the centre (AARA 5.16)
- Ensuring the proposed arrangement does not unfairly disadvantage or advantage the candidate (AARA 4.2.1)

  (In accordance with the regulations: A centre must make decisions on appropriate access arrangements for their candidates. Although professionals from other organisations may give advice, they cannot make the decision for the centre. They will not have a working knowledge of an individual candidate's needs and how their difficulties impact in the classroom and/or in timed assessments. It is the responsibility of the SENCo (or equivalent role within the centre) to make appropriate and informed decisions based on the JCQ regulations.)
- Nervousness, low level anxiety or being worried about examinations is not sufficient grounds for separate invigilation within the centre

  The use of an alternative room with one-to-one invigilation would apply where the candidate has a serious medical condition, such as frequent seizures, Tourette's or significant behavioural issues which would disturb other candidates in the examination room (AARA 5.16)

Additional information:

Not applicable

2. Criteria for the awarding of the arrangement

Alternative rooming arrangements will be considered where the arrangement would prevent a candidate from being placed at a substantial disadvantage and where the following conditions are met:

- The candidate has an established difficulty as defined in section 5.16 of the JCQ's **Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments** document (ICE 14.18)
- The candidate's disability is established within the centre and known to relevant staff or a senior member of staff with pastoral responsibilities (AARA 5.16)
- Alternative rooming arrangements reflects the candidate's normal and current way of working in internal tests and mock examinations (AARA 5.16)
- Where a candidate sits their examinations in a smaller environment away from the main examination room, the regulations and guidance within the JCQ document **Instructions for conducting examinations** will be adhered to, particularly in relation to accommodation and invigilation arrangements (ICE 14.18)

Additional information:

Not applicable

3. Other rooming arrangements

At The Hart School arrangements for seating candidates in rooms separate to the main cohort may be put in place in other circumstances. As and when applicable, these circumstances include:

Where a candidate simply panics on the day of an examination or becomes anxious, then he/she will not be offered alternative rooming, but be seated more appropriately within the main examination hall.
Alternative Rooming is no different to other access arrangements; such as prompters, supervised rest breaks etc. and will need to have documented evidence in place for the arrangements to be made. Heads of Year and Student Support Officers will be aware of students with established and long term health conditions and which candidates are eligible for Alternative Rooming.
Working with the SENCo and exams officer (EO), who may highlight issues such as room availability and the need for additional invigilation, a centre-based decision will be made on the need for alternative rooming for students.

Changes effective from 1 September 2026

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

Amended wording (as made in AARA 5.16 update March 2026) to state that 'The use of an alternative room with one-to-one invigilation would apply where the candidate has a serious medical condition, such as frequent seizures, Tourette's or significant behavioural issues which would disturb other candidates in the examination room'.

Centre-specific changes

Upon review in September 2026, no additional centre-specific updates or changes were applicable to this document.