



Exams - Alternative Rooming Arrangements Policy

Redborne Upper School

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Centre name	Redborne Upper School
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Date policy first created	05/12/2023
Current policy approved by	Chris Graves
Current policy reviewed by	Donna Nunn
Date of review	17/10/2026
Date of next review	17/10/2027

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Olly Button
Senior leader(s)	Chris Graves (Head of School) Andrew French (Deputy Headteacher) Matthew Jones (Deputy Headteacher) Kirsty Wheeler (Deputy Headteacher) Graeme Armstrong (Assistant Headteacher) Mark Cuthbert (Assistant Headteacher) Alex Hide (Assistant Headteacher) Ian Belcher (Assistant Head) Ben Middleton (Associate Headteacher)
Exam Officer	Donna Nunn
SENCo (or equivalent role)	Ben Middleton
Other staff (if applicable)	Tara Baskerville

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that alternative rooming arrangements at Redborne Upper 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 Redborne Upper School in compliance with the regulations.

1. Decisions on the awarding of the arrangement

At Redborne Upper School, decisions on the awarding of the arrangement are made by: Ben Middleton

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 Redborne Upper 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:

- * seating candidates in smaller rooms and using rooms equipped with word processors, or other arrangement specified by the JCQ regulations.
- * separate invigilation within the centre means sitting outside of the main examination hall e.g. a room for a smaller group of candidates (it does not always mean an individual room).

- * Redborne has a staged approach to the consideration for this arrangement. Medical evidence, evidence from both pastoral and from class teachers is considered by the SENDCo to be eligible for this arrangement.

- * Where a student has a documented medical condition, students are usually offered specific/preferred seating in the main examination hall.
- * A student is only considered for a smaller room where there is extensive evidence of the medical condition and extensive pastoral evidence, this would need to be part of the student's normal way of working.

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

No centre-specific changes