



Centre Policy on Assessment and Quality Assurance Processes for the Summer 2021 Alternative Arrangements

Centre Name:	Morrison Comprehensive School	Centre Number:	68868
Policy adopted by Board of Governors on:	24/03/2021	Policy issued to staff on:	25/03/2021
Member of staff responsible for the policy:	Mr D. Meredith	Signature: Date:	D. Meredith 25/3/2021
Head of Centre:	Mr M. Franklin	Signature: Date:	M. Franklin 25/3/2021
Chair of Governors:	Mrs A. Crabb	Signature: Date:	A. Crabb 25/3/2021

Statement of Intent

The purpose of this Centre Policy is:

- to ensure that Centre Determined Grades (CDG) are conducted fairly, consistently, free from bias and effectively within and across departments and maintained throughout the process
- to ensure the operation of effective processes with clear guidelines and support for staff
- to ensure that all staff involved in the processes clearly understand their roles and responsibilities
- to support teachers to take evidence-based decisions in line with Qualification Wales requirements
- to achieve a high standard of internal quality assurance in the allocation of CDGs
- to ensure the centre meets its obligations in relation to equality and disability legislation
- to ensure we meet all requirements set out in the Special Regulatory Conditions, Joint Council for Qualifications and Awarding Organisation instructions for Summer 2021 qualifications.

It will be the responsibility of everyone involved in the generation of Centre Determined Grades to read, understand, and implement the policy.



1. Roles and Responsibilities

The Chair of Governors will seek approval of this policy from the full Governing Body, and incorporate it into the policy documentation of the school

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will ensure the proper conduct of all CDG assessments and the associated processes. This will include the formulation of this Centre Policy, the process by which assessments will take place: the appropriate conduct of data collection and Quality Assurance processes: ensuring the best interests of the learners remain central to the process, keeping parents and learners informed throughout, and providing any necessary training for staff. Members of the Leadership group will QA the Grades to be awarded to ensure consistency in outcome and ensure they are in line with grades awarded in previous years.

The ALNCo will ensure that all staff are aware of the necessary access arrangements, and reasonable adjustments for learners who are entitled to these. The ALNCo will also coordinate the provision of additional support as they would do in normal circumstances.

Departmental Leaders work closely with their SLT link and the ALNCo to ensure the appropriate conduct of assessments (including the provision of access arrangements), e.g. the preparation of learners, the collection and recording of marks, the secure storage of assessments and Learner Decision Records. They will ensure their department follows the Quality Assurance process as described in this document. Department Leaders will produce a Subject Assessment Plan (Appendix 1). Department Leaders in conjunction with class teachers will identify any conflicts of interest and how they will be managed in collaboration with the Senior Member of staff with responsibility for examinations, and guidance from WJEC. Department Leaders will identify and meet any training needs for the staff involved in assessments to allow them to correctly run and administer the assessments.

Teaching Staff will work under the direction of their Department Leader and ensure that they follow this policy and the subject assessment plan in the preparation of learners, the conduct of the assessments, including identifying those learners who are entitled to access arrangements and reasonable adjustments receive their entitlement, marking and quality assurance within the given time scale. Teachers will retain all evidence on which a learner's grade is based, including copies of the learner work and Learner Decision Records, which will be held securely. Such evidence will be needed to support both the quality assurance and appeals process. Teachers will not provide students with an opportunity to improve their work, once submitted.

The Examinations Officer is responsible for managing the administration of qualifications, including coordinating the collation of entries of learners to the appropriate qualifications, as well as supporting teaching staff and the School's leadership team. The Examinations Officer will provide teaching staff with information on the provision of special consideration which does not occur in the same way this year as usual. Special consideration (Appendix 3) will be awarded by selecting work that has been completed when the learner was unaffected by the special circumstance.

The Examinations Officer will support the ALNCo in the co-ordination of access arrangements.

It will be the responsibility of everyone involved in the generation of Centre Determined Grades to read, understand and implement the policy.



2. Subject Assessment Plans

Each subject will generate a plan that outlines how grades will be awarded. This will include the evidence to be used, the way that grades will be awarded, the date of proposed assessments, the assessment mechanisms including level of control and what the quality assurance arrangements will be in place to ensure consistency and rigour.

Each subject plan will also outline how access arrangements and matters relating to equality will be addressed. Training requirements will also be indicated in the subject plan.

Subject Assessment Plans will be quality assured by the relevant line manager in the Senior Leadership Team and then on a collective basis by the responsible Assistant Headteacher, Mr D. Meredith.

For each qualification, teachers will make use of WJEC assessment frameworks which include descriptors for key grades. Each grade awarded by the school must be underpinned by robust evidence.

In determining a grade, the following types of evidence can be used in each qualification:

Adapted past paper questions

The school will make use of WJEC adapted past papers when setting tasks to help determine a grade for each qualification. Adapted past papers have already been externally quality assured; are fully supported by mark schemes; are familiar to both learners and staff. Teachers will ensure that these past papers are incorporated into normal teaching and learning in replacement of other activities undertaken in lessons.

Non-examination Assessment (NEA)

NEA exists in many qualifications. Teachers will use the performance of learners in this element to help contribute towards the determination of a grade. However, teachers will need to consider the weighting of this element to ensure that the grade awarded accurately reflects the overall standard.

Other contributing evidence

- a) Teachers may use evidence from previously completed WJEC past papers which have been externally quality assured and published with an approved mark scheme and completed under appropriately controlled conditions.
- b) Assessments undertaken prior to the publication of the agreed WJEC approach e.g. mock examinations or end of topic tests. This type of evidence may be used to confirm a judgement but not necessarily to determine a judgement. The reason for this is that at the time of completion, learners would not have been aware that this piece of work would be required for determining their grade. This is designed to ensure fairness and equity for all learners.

The number of pieces of evidence required to determine a grade will vary per qualification. Teachers will ensure that there is sufficient opportunity for learners to provide clear evidence to demonstrate competency against the key themes of a qualification; such key themes are documented in the WJEC subject frameworks.

Staff are guided to use the Standardised Assessment Materials (SAMs) from WJEC. However, if subject areas decide to create their own assessment, they must consult with their line manager or Mr D. Meredith in the first instance, having read the Centre Assessment Creation Guide. Subject staff will also need to evidence that online training has been completed.



The evidence generated will not be completed in the form of an examination i.e. in the Hall with external invigilators but assessments will be delivered in lessons within schemes of learning.

Within the Subject Assessment Plan, Department Leaders will specify which assessments they will use, and how the outcomes will be quality assured. Quality Assurance will take place at Departmental and Leadership level and is referenced below in further detail.

3. Centre Devised Assessments

Staff are guided to use the Standardised Assessment Materials (SAMs) where possible.

If a subject area decides to use a centre devised assessment they should first discuss the implications of doing so and outline their plans to their line manager or Mr D.Meredith. Activities must meet all of the assessment criteria and make careful reference to the WJECs Centre Assessment Creation Guide.

Teaching staff should also indicate their attendance at WJEC training sessions.

4. Assessment Delivery

Assessments will be carried out under a level of control that satisfies the Centre that the learners work is their own. Subject areas will document the assessment mechanisms in their subject assessment plans:

- Location of assessment
- Level of control
- Nature and duration of assessment
- Access arrangements

In the case of NEAs, if it is the case that levels of control are altered part way through the process and that work may be completed without the usual level of supervision then consideration needs to be made as to how comparisons can be made to work that has been supervised, with that already completed without supervision.

Work will be completed independently by learners, under similar levels of control that teachers use for existing arrangements such as NEA. This is to ensure that the evidence produced is a learner's own. Wherever possible, work will be completed in class and in place of usual classroom activities. It may be that there are occasions where work needs to be completed at home e.g. in the event of national lockdown or self-isolation. The school will introduce additional mitigating measures at this point to ensure that as far as possible, a learner's work is their own.

The school will also consider work that has been produced by the learner against previously assessed work to verify authenticity; this is particularly relevant where evidence submitted is atypical of the usual standard demonstrated by the learner. Staff may undertake further activities with learners in order to ascertain that work is a learner's own, e.g. a Question-and-Answer session with the learner or an additional assessment activity.

Assessments will as far as possible, be completed at the same time within a subject.



Decisions relating to the awarded grade will not be communicated to students and/or parents by individual staff within the subject, until the given date in June.

In line with existing policies in relation to Public Examinations and Controlled Assessment, the school will ensure that it is compliant with its Public Sector Equality Duty. The school will ensure that it is compliant with data protection and data processing regulations.

5. Quality Assurance of Assessment and Grading Decisions

Assessing work will be the responsibility of each teacher who teaches the subject. They will assess the work of the students in their class, using a RED pen and the appropriate WJEC mark schemes to support the accurate awarding of grades. The subject teacher will record the mark and grade awarded. Physical copies of evidence and Learner Decision records will be retained and stored securely.

Overall Grading Decisions

Grades will be decided on a holistic approach but grades must be underpinned by evidence of attainment in areas a learner has covered.

It will not be permitted for subject teachers to issue a Centre Determined Grade based on professional prediction or the potential of a learner in a given subject. Teachers will be required to apply professional judgement and decide whether the knowledge and skills that has been demonstrated by a learner meets the usual standard for a specified grade.

The standard expected for any particular grade is no lower than previous years, but the volume of work completed in the specification will be inevitably lower.

The school will be required to make use of 'best fit' judgements when determining a grade.

Learners are not required to demonstrate all aspects of a grade descriptor in order to be awarded the grade. Learners should be awarded a grade supported by evidence across sufficient breadth of content as determined by WJEC. The same grade may be achieved by demonstrating different combinations of knowledge, skills and understanding.

Where there is insufficient evidence, or where evidence is below that required for the lowest awarding grade of a qualification then a U grade will be awarded.

The school will document all decisions through the **learner decision making record**.

This document will outline all evidence used to determine a grade and offers a rationale for the grade awarded.

On this form a clear explanation will be given to help parents and learners understand the reason for the grade that has been awarded. This may form the basis of any response to an appeal enquiry.

Quality Assurance

The purpose of quality assurance is to:

- Provide teachers with confidence in the Centre Determined Grades they have assigned,
- Ensure fairness and objectivity of decisions, and
- Ensure consistency in the application of assessment criteria and standards.
- Resolve any teachers' differences of opinion over awarded grades.



Quality assurance processes will also ensure learners of different protected characteristics are included in the sampling and cross checked (to conform with Equality and Disability legislation).

Quality assurance processes will involve all those involved in teaching the subject, cross checking the marking across the full range of marks and include learners from each class.

Each subject area will determine the size of the internal moderation sample and identify any conflicts of interest e.g. staff colleagues with their child in the year group/subject area or class. The exception to this is where a cohort size is less than 10; in this case the whole class cohort will be moderated.

A representative sample will be identified (Males / Females / eFSM / EAL / ALN / MAT). This sample will represent 25% of the cohort.

The Department Leader will ensure that the sample of work to be moderated covers the full spectrum of grades and work from all teachers who have prepared learners and assessed work.

In subjects where there is more than one teacher and/or class in the department it is a requirement to carry out internal moderation.

No one member of staff will be able to both assess and verify the evidence of a student. In departments where teachers work in isolation, the school will provide an opportunity for evidence to be moderated through another centre.

All work sampled will be marked anonymously to mitigate the risk of conscious/unconscious bias.

Learners will write examination numbers on assessments in place of names.

Department Leaders will also need to consider whether any conflict of interest exists in relation to teachers assessing the work of their family or close friends.

Subject staff will undertake moderation activities (to establish a consistency in approach towards assessments) as soon as is reasonable and practicable, once the evidence has been submitted.

Moderators will confirm marks by initialling in GREEN pen next to the awarded marks. Where amendments are required, Department Leaders will sign to confirm that these are accurate. This will be done in PURPLE pen.

The department will identify exemplars within the sample relating to specific standards for grades A* - G.

All changes implemented to marks awarded will be documented and the record retained as evidence.

Learner assessment data (i.e. the pupil's previous performance in that subject) will form the basis of discussions around the decisions made.

As a result of internal moderation, it may be necessary to adjust a teacher's decision to:

- Match the standards as established and understood in the guidance provided.
- Bring judgements in line with those of other teachers in the department.
- Satisfy requirements in relation to Equality and Disability legislation



Department Leaders will ensure that the CDGs are broadly in line with the subject's performance in recent years and provide a rationale for any significant variation.

Any variances, adjustments etc. as a result of the quality assurance process, will be recorded.

A further quality assurance process will be undertaken by the Leadership Team to ensure that the grades awarded for a given cohort are in line with those from previous external examination series where applicable. The Leadership Team will draw together and analyse contextual performance information for a given year group. This may include Key Stage 3 levels, National tests, Key Stage 4 tracking data and GCSE and AS results.

The school will engage in Centre-Centre discussions in order to review its processes of determining grades with leaders in other Centres. This will take place at key milestones of the process from planning to implementation to the review of outcomes. The intention of this process is to further ensure that the awarding of grades is done in a valid, reliable and fair manner.

There will be no external moderation of Centre Determined Grades. However, grades submitted to WJEC may be reviewed and investigated where performance profiles are atypical.

A programme of training will be provided for all staff on the quality assurance processes required.

6. Learner and Parent/Carer Communication

The involvement of learners and parents and the utilisation of a clear and transparent communications plan will be a priority to instil confidence in the approach used by the school.

A parent and learner communication plan will be implemented to provide information on the key areas.

Prior to Easter, learners will be provided with:

- An overview of the CDG process
- An overview of when assessments will be completed (see Appendix 1)
- What information will be considered by subject teachers when determining their CDGs.

Once quality assurance of the Centre Assessment Plan by the WJEC has taken place, parents and learners will be provided with a copy. In addition to the points above, this will also set out:

- How specific and relevant access arrangements and special consideration have been met
- The recording of evidence contributing to the determination of their final qualification grade
- The internal moderation processes that will be undertaken by the school
- The recording of reviews requested by the learners and the outcome of such reviews (Complaints procedures)



After Easter and by subject teaching and learning, learners will be informed of:

- Their subject assessment dates
- The topics that will be covered in each assessment. Please note that learners will not be provided with the assessment to view in advance.
- The need to ensure that all work completed in assessment activities is their own and that if this is not the case then this would be considered malpractice.
- Their right to their usual 'access arrangements' if appropriate.

Weekly assessment plans will be shared with learners and parents on the Friday prior to that week.

Pupils will be informed of their Centre Determined Grade during the week commencing 21st June.

7. Internal reviews and complaints

Stage 1: A learner may ask for a provisional grade to be reviewed before submission to WJEC. This may lead to a grade being raised or lowered. The member of staff that undertakes this review process will be an objective member of staff and not the relevant subject teacher.

Reviews can be requested between the date where learners are informed of their Centre Determined Grades and 2nd July 2021, the deadline for submission of Centre Determined Grades to WJEC.

Stage 2: Once final results have been issued on results days, learners may appeal to WJEC through the school, if a judgement is felt to be unreasonable or erroneous. WJEC may lower or raise the grade following this process.

The window for AS and A level appeals is 10th August to 7th September.

The corresponding appeal window for GCSE grades is 24th August to 21st September.

Stage 3: Learners may request an Exam Procedures Review Service from Qualifications Wales to check whether WJEC has followed the required procedures.



Subject	W/C 12/4/21	W/C 19/4/21	W/C 26/4/21	W/C 3/5/21	W/C 10/5/21	W/C 17/5/21	W/C 24/5/21	W/C 7/6/21
Art/Photography								Assessment
Computer Science	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	
Constructing the Built Environment	Internal coursework	Internal coursework	Internal coursework	Internal coursework	Internal coursework	Internal coursework	Internal coursework	
Constructing the Built Environment (Y10)		Assessment			Assessment		Assessment	
Creative & Media	Assessment	Internal coursework	Internal coursework	Internal coursework	Internal coursework	Internal coursework	Internal coursework	
D&T Product Design		Assessment	Assessment		Assessment	Assessment		
English Lang		Assessment		Assessment				
English Lit		Assessment		Assessment		Assessment	Assessment	
French	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment		Speaking
Geography	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment		Assessment		
History	Assessment			Assessment				
Hospitality and Catering	11C - Assessment	Assessment x2	11A - Assessment			Practical Exams	Practical Exams	
Mathematics all tiers	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment
P.E		Assessment		Assessment		Assessment		
Triple Science	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment		
Double Science	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	
Applied double science	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	
Applied Single		Assessment		Assessment			Assessment	
Welsh	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment		Speaking
ICT	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment	Assessment			



APPENDIX 2: Guidance on Special Consideration for Summer 2021

Introduction

The purpose of this guidance is to provide advice to centre staff when making decisions on centre determined grades.

The guidance covers the following Qualification Wales approved qualifications:

- Qualifications Wales approved GCSE, AS and A level
- Skills Challenge Certificates
- Level 2 and Level 3 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts
- Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development (Unit 216)

Special Consideration

The process of centres submitting special consideration applications to awarding bodies will not apply this summer.

As the evidence is flexible and can be tailored to an individual candidate according to the coverage of the specification, instances of special consideration should be limited. Centres should be able to select work completed by candidates where they are unaffected by adverse circumstances.

Where this is not possible and a temporary illness, injury or other event outside of a candidate's control may have affected their performance in assessments which will be used to determine a grade, teachers should take this into account.

The event must relate to the candidate's performance(s) at the time of taking relevant assessments which contribute to the centre determined grade and due to events outside of their control. These include:

- Temporary illness or accident/injury
- Bereavement
- Domestic crisis
- The centre not implementing previously approved access arrangements.

Candidates will not be eligible for special consideration if preparation for, or performance in their assessments is affected by:

- Long term illness, disability, or other difficulties unless the illness or circumstances manifest themselves at the time of an assessment
- Bereavement occurring more than six months before the assessment, unless an anniversary has been reached at the time of the assessment or there are on-going implications such as an inquest or court case
- Consequences of disobeying the centre's internal regulations.

Special consideration is never applied due to lost teaching and learning time. Lost teaching and learning is being addressed this summer via the assessment methods and the flexibility afforded to the centre in the content that will be assessed, as outlined in the qualification assessment, frameworks provided by WJEC. Additional information will be provided in the WJEC guidance on grading. Centre determined grades are based on the evidence produced by the candidate and not their potential.

How to apply for special consideration

Special consideration should be implemented by the centre at assessment level through applying an allowance of additional marks to each assessment affected. The size of the allowance depends on the timing, nature and extent of the illness or other circumstance. The maximum allowance given will be 5% of the *total raw marks* available in the assessment.



The severity of the circumstances and the date of the assessment in relation to the circumstances should be considered.

Centres must be satisfied that the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a candidate's ability to demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment.

Special consideration cannot be applied in a cumulative fashion. For example, because of a recent trauma at the time of the assessment and the candidate suffering from a viral illness. Special consideration should only be applied for the most serious indisposition.

The following are examples of circumstances which must apply at the time of the assessment.

5% This is the maximum allowance and will be reserved for the most exceptional cases, such as:

- terminal illness of the candidate
- terminal illness of a parent/carer
- death of a member of the immediate family within two months of the assessment
- very serious and disruptive crisis/incident at or near the time of the assessment.

4% Very serious problems such as:

- life-threatening illness of candidate or member of immediate family
- major surgery at or near the time of the assessment
- severe disease
- very recent death of member of extended family
- severe or permanent bodily injury occurring at the time of the examination
- serious crisis/incident at the time of the assessment.

NB 'Very recent' is defined as within one month of the assessment(s) taking place.

3% A more common category (more cases will fall into this category), including:

- recent traumatic experience such as death of a close friend or distant relative
- recent illness of a more serious nature
- flare-up of a severe congenital/medical condition or a psychological condition
- broken limbs
- organ disease
- physical assault trauma before an assessment
- recent crisis/incident
- witnessing a distressing event on the day of the assessment. NB 'Recent' is defined as up to four months prior to the examination(s) taking place.

2% The most common category of allowance – most cases will fall within this category:

- illness at the time of the assessment
- broken limb on the mend
- concussion
- effects of pregnancy (not pregnancy per se)
- extreme distress on the day of an assessment (not simply assessment related stress).

1% Reserved for more minor problems:

- illness of another candidate which leads to disruption in the assessment
- stress or anxiety for which medication has been prescribed
- hay fever on the day of an assessment



- minor upset arising from administrative problems

Appeals

As in other series, appeals may be submitted on the grounds of the application of special consideration



Appendix 3: Timeline of Key Dates for Centres

Date	Event
5 th March	WJEC provides information to centres on the assessment and Internal Quality Assurance requirements
19 th – 25 th	Centres submit their assessment and Internal Quality Assurance policies to WJEC
12 th April	WJEC provides feedback to centres on their policies
2 nd July	Grading decisions made in centres and Internal Quality Assurance undertaken. Grades are shared with students and centre reviews undertaken. Centres internally review and sign off outcomes
14 th June – 2 nd July	Submission window for Centre-Determined Grades
21 st June – 12 th July	WJEC Quality Assurance student decision making records and overall outcomes
13 th – 16 th July	WJEC discusses atypical results with centres and issues arising from review of evidence records
10 th August	AS and A level Results
10 th August – 7 th September	AS and A level appeals window (to WJEC)
12 th August	GCSE Results
24 th August – 21 st September	GCSE appeals window



Appendix 4: WJEC Timeline of Guidance and Training Events

Date	Event
5 th March	Pre-recorded training: 'Foundations and creation of assessment'
5 th March	Guidance on 'Centre policy on assessment and Quality Assurance'
w/c 8 th March	Pre-recorded training: 'Centre approach to assessment and Quality Assurance of grading decisions'
12 th March	Training: Live Question & Answer
15 th March	High-level appeals process
w/c 15 th March	Final Qualification Assessment Frameworks including grade descriptors
w/c 15 th March	Grading Guide for centres
w/c 15 th March	Assessment materials for centres
19 th March	Entries deadline
w/c 22 nd March	Subject specific training materials
19 th –25 th March	Centres submit Assessment and Internal QA policies to WJEC
22 nd March	Pre-recorded training: 'Unconscious bias and objectivity'
25 th March	Training: Live Question & Answer
12 th April	WJEC provides feedback to centres on their policies
19 th April	Pre-recorded training: Making final judgements
22 nd April	Entries amendment window deadline
w/c 26 th April	Final appeals process
26 th April	Pre-recorded training: 'Good practice in making final grading decisions and Quality Assurance'



5 th May	Training: Live Question & Answer
17 th May	Pre-recorded training: 'Submitting Centre-Determined Grades'
14 th June – 2 nd July	Submission window for Centre-Determined Grades
21 st June – 12 th July	WJEC Quality Assurance 'Student decision records and overall outcomes'

Appendix 5: Key Dates for Students

Date	Event
By Easter	The school will inform students how you will be assessed and graded for your qualification (completed on 1st March 2021)
12 th April – 28 th May	You should have face-to-face teaching and some additional assessments (See Appendix 1)
Between 18 th and 25 th June	You will receive your provisional Centre Determined Grades and you will have the opportunity to ask for your grades to be reviewed
14 th June – 2 nd July	The school will submit the provisional Centre Determined Grades to WJEC
10 th August	AS and A level Results Day
10 th August – 7 th September	You will have the opportunity to appeal your AS or/and A level result to WJEC
12 th August	GCSE Results Day
24 th August – 21 st September*	You will have the opportunity to appeal your GCSE result to WJEC
Post results day	You will have the opportunity to appeal to Qualifications Wales for an Exam Procedures Review Service (EPRS)

* Provisional