



**Functional Skills L2 (English) Special
Consideration Policy
Sir Thomas Rich's**

Functional Skills L2 (English) Special Consideration and Reasonable Adjustments Policy

Centre name	Sir Thomas Rich's
Centre number	57143
Date first created	1/04/2026
Current policy approved by	Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
Current policy reviewed by	Jo Tyler (EO)
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Date of next review	April 2027

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name(s)
Head of centre	Matthew Lynch
Senior leader(s) i/c exams	Dave Dempsey (Deputy Headteacher/Deputy Head of Centre) Sonja Jones (Director of Finance and Operations, Line Manager for exams)
Quality Nominee	Joanne Loveridge (SENDSCO)

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Aims

This policy outlines the centre's approach to ensuring fair access to assessment through the use of **reasonable adjustments** and **special consideration**, in line with awarding organisation and regulatory requirements.

The centre is committed to ensuring that all learners have equal opportunity to demonstrate their achievement without compromising the integrity of the qualification.

1. To ensure any Special Consideration adjustment to a candidate's mark or grade to reflect temporary injury, illness, or other indisposition at the time of the examination/assessment is submitted appropriately and must be made within seven days of the last examination of the series
2. To ensure that learners are not unfairly disadvantaged/advantaged during the assessment process.

To do this, Sir Thomas Richs will:

Special Considerations

Eligibility for special consideration

Candidates will be eligible for special consideration if they have been fully prepared and have covered the whole course but performance in the examination, or in the production of coursework or non-examination assessment, is materially affected by adverse circumstances beyond their control (SC 2.1)

Special consideration must be applied for at the time of the assessment (SC 2)

Candidates will not be eligible for special consideration if preparation for, or performance in the examination is affected by the reasons detailed in the JCQ document **A guide to the special consideration process** (SC 2.3)

Roles and responsibilities

The role of the head of centre

Be familiar with, refers to and directs relevant centre staff to the annually updated JCQ publication **A guide to the special consideration process**

Ensure where a candidate meets the published criteria, an application for special consideration will be submitted to the relevant awarding body by the exams office/officer

The role of the exams office/officer

Refer to the criteria detailed in the JCQ document **A guide to the special consideration process** to determine where a candidate is/is not eligible for special consideration

Where a candidate meets the published criteria, submit an application for special consideration to the relevant awarding body

The role of the senior leader

Authorise appropriate evidence to support all eligible applications (SC 6)

Ensure that if the centre does not support an application for special consideration, it will not be submitted to the relevant awarding body

The role of other staff/ Quality Nominee

Provide any appropriate evidence or information that may be required to determine a candidate's eligibility for special consideration.

Ensures compliance with awarding body requirements.

Maintain supporting evidence and oversight of all arrangements.

Additional responsibilities:

This must be provided to the Head of Sixth Form or Head of Key Stage 4.

The role of an affected candidate (or parent/carer)

Provide any medical or other evidence that may be required to confirm eligibility for special consideration

Additional responsibilities:

This must be provided to the Head of Sixth Form or Head of Key Stage 4.

Applying for special consideration

At Sir Thomas Rich's School, where a candidate is eligible, special consideration will be applied for at the time of the assessment in accordance with the regulations as detailed in the JCQ document **A guide to the special consideration process**.

For candidates who are present for the assessment but disadvantaged Sir Thomas Rich's School must be satisfied that there has been a material detrimental effect on candidate examination performance or in the production of coursework or non-examination assessment.

Examples where a candidate/candidates may be eligible for special consideration include:

A candidate arrives for the examination and is clearly unwell, extremely distressed and/or may have sustained an injury that requires emergency access arrangements to be put in place:

the candidate is kept under centre supervision (from 30 minutes after the published starting time for that examination until they begin it) while appropriate arrangements are put in place for the candidate to take the examination (ICE 6.9)

special consideration is applied if this indisposition has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on the candidate's ability to demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in the examination (SC 1)

Application for an allowance on the last paper taken in a day when a candidate has been entered for three or more examinations timetabled for the same day and the total duration of those papers is more than 6 hours (GCE and Level 3 exams) or more than 5 hours 30 minutes (GCSE, Level 1 and Level 2 exams) including any approved extra time but not any time taken for supervised rest breaks, special consideration for an allowance on the last paper taken will be applied for (SC 3.3)

Serious disturbance during the examination (SC 2.1)

Candidates will not be eligible for special consideration if preparation for, or performance in the examination is affected by a minor disturbance in the examination room caused by another candidate, such as momentary bad behaviour, a mobile phone ringing, or a momentary fire alarm (SC 2.3)

(In accordance with SC 1: A centre **must not** submit applications for special consideration for trivial cases. Examples of trivial cases which **would not** warrant special consideration include, but are not limited to: a bird tweeting outside the examination room; a lorry reversing; a toilet being flushed; doors in a corridor adjacent to the examination room opening and closing; very short, momentary noise from, for example, aeroplanes, helicopters, lawn mowers)

Candidates who are absent from a timetabled component or unit for acceptable reasons

If a candidate is absent for acceptable reasons, and Sir Thomas Rich's School is prepared to support an application for special consideration, special consideration will be applied for if the examination missed is in the terminal series and the minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence can be met. (SC 4)

For unitised examinations taken in an examination series prior to certification, candidates must be re-entered for any missed units at the next assessment opportunity. Unless there are difficulties arising, e.g. group performances which cannot be repeated, special consideration will not be awarded. (SC 4)

Other issues

Where other issues or problems affect a candidate or a group of candidates, special consideration will be explored in **A guide to the special consideration process** and applied for where eligible. This may include, for example:

Other certification (SC 5)

Shortfall in work (coursework/non-examination assessment) (SC 5)

Lost or damaged work (non-examination assessment components) (SC 5)

Candidates issued with an incorrect or incomplete question paper, set the wrong coursework or non-examination assessment task or taught the wrong set text (SC 5)

Where a candidate may be eligible for special consideration (a post-assessment adjustment) in other vocational qualifications, Sir Thomas Rich's School will follow **A guide to special consideration** (7) and awarding body guidance to determine if, when and how an adjustment can be applied for.

Processing applications for special consideration

The role of the head of centre

Ensure, before any applications are processed, that the centre is satisfied that the candidates' circumstances warrant special consideration, as set out within the JCQ document **A guide to the special consideration process** (SC 6)

Ensure that any applications for special consideration where candidates meet the published criteria and are sufficiently evidenced will be submitted to the relevant awarding body (SC 6)

Additional responsibilities:

Ensures where a candidate may be a member of the family (which includes stepfamily, foster-family and similar close relationships) of the senior leadership team member, exams officer, or close friend and their immediate family (e.g. son/daughter) of a member of exams office staff, the application will be authorised and processed by an alternative member of centre staff.

The role of the exams office/officer

Ensure applications are processed as required by the awarding bodies

Ensure a candidate/candidates (or a parent/carer) understands that all cases must be dealt with by the centre (SC 6)

Ensure that special consideration is applied for at the time of the assessment

Ensure special consideration is not applied for in a cumulative fashion and where a candidate may be affected by different indispositions, ensure special consideration is only applied for the most serious indisposition

Keep evidence to support all applications on file until after the publication of results and provide the appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team to support an application where this may be requested by an awarding body (SC 6)

Meet the awarding body deadline(s) for submitting applications

Submitting applications for special consideration

At Sir Thomas Rich's School, where a candidate or group of candidates is/are eligible for special consideration, applications will be submitted to the relevant awarding body following the published processes in **A guide to the special consideration process**.

In cases of online applications for special consideration, the candidate/candidates will be informed when an application for special consideration is submitted to the awarding body (to ensure compliance with the UK GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018).

Evidence to support all applications will be retained on file until after the publication of results.

Timetabled written examinations

Applications for individual candidates will be submitted online by logging into the relevant awarding body secure extranet site and following the links to special consideration (where the awarding body's secure site accepts applications online)

A single application to cover all examinations affected where a candidate is present but disadvantaged and a separate application for each day on which examinations are missed where a candidate is absent from an examination for an acceptable reason will be submitted

Form 14 **Self certification form** (Self certification for candidates who have missed an examination) will only be completed by a candidate/parent/carer where circumstances warrant this and will not be used where the centre knows the candidate was ill

Internally assessed work

Where appropriate, applications will be made online where the awarding body's secure system accepts them or Form 10 (**Application for special consideration**) will be completed and submitted to the awarding body

Where an application relates to a shortfall in work for an individual candidate, this will be submitted by completing Form 10, attached to a breakdown of marks across the assessment objectives

After referral to SLT.

Applications post-publication of results

If, after the publication of results for a particular examination series, a claim is made that special consideration was not applied for at the time of an assessment where a candidate was eligible, the claimant will be informed that late applications will only be accepted by an awarding body in the most exceptional circumstances and where a senior leader is able to produce compelling evidence to support a late application. The application must be submitted before the deadline for reviews of results for the respective exam series.

The centre communicates outcomes to the learner promptly.

Monitoring and Review

- The Quality Nominee monitors the use of adjustments and special consideration.
- This policy is reviewed annually or in response to regulatory changes.