



# *The* COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL *Leftwich*

Achieving Excellence

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## Document Control Sheet

Document Type	Policy
Document Name	Word Processor Policy
Originator	Adam Carter
Approved by	Quality of Education
Review interval	Annual
Date of last review	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
Date of next review	Spring Term 2024
Equality Act 2010 fully considered	Yes
EIA Form Completed	Yes

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## Word Processor Policy

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name(s)
ALS Lead/SENCo	<b>J Martland</b>
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Senior Leader(s)	<b>A Carter</b>

This policy is reviewed and updated annually on the publication of updated JCQ regulations and guidance on access arrangements and instructions for conducting exams.

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The use of a word processor in exams and assessments is an available access arrangement/reasonable adjustment. The purpose of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing him/her from being placed at a substantial disadvantage as a consequence of persistent and significant difficulties. The integrity of the assessment is maintained, whilst at the same time providing access to assessments for a disabled candidate.
- 1.2. Although access arrangements/adjustments are intended to allow access to assessments, they cannot be granted where they will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question.
- 1.3. Candidates may not require the same access arrangements/reasonable adjustments in each specification. Subjects and their methods of assessments may vary, leading to different demands of the candidate. ALS leads/SENCoS must consider the need for access arrangements/reasonable adjustments on a subject-by-subject basis.
- 1.4. The Additional Learning Support lead/SENCo must ensure that the proposed access arrangement/reasonable adjustment does not unfairly disadvantage or advantage a candidate.
- 1.5. (AA 4.2.7)  
The candidate must have had appropriate opportunities to practice using the access arrangement(s)/reasonable adjustment(s) before their first examination.

### 2. Purpose of the policy

- 2.1. This policy details how The County High School Leftwich complies with AA chapter 4 (Managing the needs of candidates and principles for centres), section 5.8 (Word processor) and ICE (sections 14.20-27) when awarding and allocating a candidate the use of word processor in examinations.

- 2.2. The term 'word processor' is used to describe for example, the use of a computer, laptop or tablet.
- 2.3. We recognise that for some students with additional educational needs, a laptop may be the most appropriate method of organising and presenting work. We aim to ensure that the most relevant arrangements are made and fair consideration and access is given to all students.
- 2.4. The normal way of working for exam candidates at The County High School Leftwich is that candidates handwrite their exams unless there are exceptions.
- 2.5. Before being allowed to use a laptop as a normal way of working, the student must be identified by a member of staff, and the raised concerns investigated by the SENDCO or Assistant SENDCO's.
- 2.6. The centre will
  - 2.6.1. allocate the use of a word processor to a candidate with the spelling and grammar check tool/predictive text disabled (switched off) where it is their normal way of working within the centre
  - 2.6.2. award the use of a word processor to a candidate where appropriate to their needs  
  
For example, a candidate with:
    - 2.6.2.1. a learning difficulty which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to write legibly
    - 2.6.2.2. a medical condition
    - 2.6.2.3. a physical disability
    - 2.6.2.4. a sensory impairment
    - 2.6.2.5. planning and organisational problems when writing by hand
    - 2.6.2.6. poor handwriting
    - 2.6.2.7. If it is their 'Normal way of working' at Primary school or previous setting,
  - 2.6.3. only permit the use of a word processor where the integrity of the assessment can be maintained
  - 2.6.4. not grant the use of a word processor where it will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question
  - 2.6.5. consider on a subject-by-subject basis if the candidate will need to use a word processor in each specification
  - 2.6.6. process access arrangements/reasonable adjustments at the start of the course, or as soon as practicable having firmly established a picture of need and normal way of working, ensuring arrangements are always approved before an examination or assessment
  - 2.6.7. provide the use of word processors to candidates in non-examination assessment components as standard practice unless prohibited by the specification
- 2.7. The centre will not:
  - 2.7.1. simply grant the use of a word processor to a candidate because they now want to type rather than write in exams or they can work faster on a keyboard, or because they use a laptop at home.
- 2.8. Additionally, the use of a word processor would be considered for a candidate

- 2.8.1. in the event of a temporary injury or impairment, or a diagnosis of a disability or manifestation of an impairment relating to an existing disability arising after the start of the course
  - 2.8.2. where the curriculum is delivered electronically, and the centre provides word processors to all candidates
- 2.9. A candidate using a word processor is accommodated alongside other candidates in the main hall or separate rooms depending on the individual candidate.
- 2.9.1. In compliance with the regulations the centre:
    - 2.9.1.1. provides a word processor with the spelling and grammar check predictive text disabled (switched off) to a candidate where it is their normal way of working within the centre, unless an awarding body's specification says otherwise
    - 2.9.1.2. (where a candidate is to be seated with the main cohort without the use of a power point) checks the battery capacity of the word processor before the candidate's exam to ensure that the battery is sufficiently charged for the entire duration of the exam
    - 2.9.1.3. ensures the candidate is reminded to ensure that their centre number, candidate number and the unit/component code appear on each page as a header or footer e.g. 40415/8001 6391/01
    - 2.9.1.4. If a candidate is using the software application Notepad or Word pad these do not allow for the insertion of a header or footer. In these instances once the candidate has completed the examination and printed off their typed script, they are instructed to handwrite their details as a header or footer. The candidate is supervised throughout this process to ensure that they are solely performing this task and not re-reading their answers or amending their work in any way.
    - 2.9.1.5. ensures the candidate understands that each page of the typed script must be numbered, e.g. page 1 of 6
    - 2.9.1.6. ensures the candidate is reminded to save their work at regular intervals.
    - 2.9.1.7. instructs the candidate to use a minimum of 12pt font and double spacing to make marking easier for examiners
- 2.10. The centre will ensure the word processor:
- 2.10.1. is only used in a way that ensures a candidate's script is produced under secure conditions
  - 2.10.2. is not used to perform skills which are being assessed
  - 2.10.3. is in good working order at the time of the exam
  - 2.10.4. is accommodated in such a way that other candidates are not disturbed and cannot read the screen
  - 2.10.5. is used as a typewriter, not as a database, although standard formatting software is acceptable
  - 2.10.6. is cleared of any previously stored data
  - 2.10.7. does not give the candidate access to other applications such as a calculator (where prohibited in the examination), e-mail, the Internet, social media sites, spreadsheets

- 2.10.8. does not include graphic packages or computer aided design software unless permission has been given to use these
- 2.10.9. does not have any predictive text software or an automatic spelling and grammar check enabled unless the candidate has been permitted a scribe or is using speech recognition technology (a scribe cover sheet must be completed), or the awarding body's specification permits the use of automatic spell checking
- 2.10.10. does not include computer reading (text to speech) software unless the candidate has permission to use a computer reader
- 2.10.11. does not include speech recognition technology unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe or relevant software
- 2.10.12. is not used on the candidate's behalf by a third party unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe

### **3. Portable storage medium**

(ICE 14.25)

- 3.1. The centre will ensure that any portable storage medium (e.g. a memory stick) used:
  - 3.1.1. is provided by the centre
  - 3.1.2. is cleared of any previously stored data

### **4. Printing the script after the exam has ended**

(ICE 14.25)

- 4.1. The centre will ensure:
  - 4.1.1. the word processor is either connected to a printer so that a script can be printed off, or have the facility to print from a portable storage medium
  - 4.1.2. the candidate is present to verify that the work printed is his or their own
  - 4.1.3. a word processed script is attached to any answer booklet which contains some of the answers
  - 4.1.4. if a candidate omits to insert the required header or footer, they are instructed to handwrite the details as a header or footer; the candidate is supervised throughout this process to ensure that he/she is solely performing this task and not re-reading their answers or amending their work in any way
  - 4.1.5. The centre will also ensure that where an awarding body may require a word processor cover sheet, this is included with the candidate's typed script (and according to the relevant awarding body's instructions).
- 4.2. The centre may retain electronic copies of word processed scripts as the electronic copy of a word processed script may be accepted by an awarding body where the printed copy has been lost. However, the centre would need to demonstrate to the awarding body that the file has been kept securely. The head of centre would be required to confirm this in writing to the awarding body.