
Farmor's School Protocol

Subject: Complaints procedure (examinations)

Date Reviewed: December 2023

SLT Responsible: Emma White

Link Policies: Complaints policy, Examinations Policy, Internal Appeals protocol, Controlled Assessment protocol, NEA protocol

Reviewed and approved by appropriate members of the senior leadership team to ensure that it is fit for purpose and compatible with the existing policies and procedures of the centre. The review should be repeated at regular intervals and kept up to date.

Due for Review: December 2024

Grounds for complaint

A candidate (or his/her/parent/carer) may make a complaint on the grounds below (this is not an exhaustive list).

Teaching and learning

- ▶ Quality of teaching and learning, for example
 - ▶ Non-subject specialist teacher without adequate training/subject matter expertise utilised on a long-term basis
 - ▶ Teacher lacking knowledge of new specification/incorrect core content studied/taught
 - ▶ Core content not adequately covered
 - ▶ Inadequate feedback for a candidate following assessment(s)
- ▶ Pre-release/advance material/set task issued by the awarding body not provided on time to an exam candidate
- ▶ The taking of an assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not conducted according to the JCQ/awarding body instructions
- ▶ Centre fails to adhere to its *internal appeals procedure*
- ▶ Candidate not informed of his/her centre assessed marks prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- ▶ Candidate not informed of his/her centre assessed marks in sufficient time to request/appeal a review of marking prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- ▶ Candidate not given sufficient time to review materials to make a decision whether to request a review of centre assessed marks

Access arrangements and special consideration

- ▶ Candidate not assessed by the centre's appointed assessor
- ▶ Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding his/her access arrangements
- ▶ Candidate did not consent to personal data being shared electronically (by the non-acquisition of a signed Data Protection Notice)
- ▶ Candidate not informed/adequately informed of the arrangements in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangements would not apply
- ▶ Exam information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it
- ▶ Adapted equipment put in place failed during exam/assessment
- ▶ Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment
- ▶ Appropriate arrangements not put in place at the time of an exam/assessment as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment
- ▶ Candidate unhappy with centre decision relating to access arrangements or special consideration (*complainant to refer to the centre's internal appeals procedure*)

Entries

- ▶ Failure to clearly explain a decision of early entry for a qualification to candidate (or parent/carer)
- ▶ Candidate not entered/entered late (incurring a late entry fee) for a required exam/assessment
- ▶ Candidate entered for a wrong exam/assessment
- ▶ Candidate entered for a wrong tier of entry

Conducting examinations

- ▶ Failure to adequately brief candidate on exam timetable/exam regulations prior to exam/assessment taking place
- ▶ Room in which exam held did not provide candidate with appropriate conditions for taking the exam
- ▶ Inadequate invigilation in exam room
- ▶ Failure to conduct exam according to the regulations
- ▶ Online system failed during (online) exam/assessment
- ▶ Disruption during exam/assessment
- ▶ Alleged, suspected or actual malpractice incident not investigated/reported
- ▶ Eligible application for special consideration for a candidate not submitted/not submitted to timescale
- ▶ Failure to inform/update candidate on the outcome of a special consideration application

Results and Post-results

- ▶ Before exams, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the accessibility of senior members of centre staff after the publication of results
- ▶ Candidate not having access to a member of senior staff after the publication of results to discuss/make decision on the submission of an enquiry
- ▶ Candidate request for return of work after moderation and work not available/disposed of earlier than allowed in the regulations
- ▶ Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a result (complainant to refer via exams officer to awarding body *post-results services*)
- ▶ Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a centre decision not to support a clerical check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal (complainant to refer via the centre's *internal appeals protocol*)
- ▶ Centre applied for the wrong post-results service/for the wrong script for a candidate
- ▶ Centre missed awarding body deadline to apply for a post-results service
- ▶ Centre applied for a post-results service for candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission

Raising a concern/ complaint

If a candidate (or his/her parent/carer) has a general concern or complaint about the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification he/she is following, Farmor's School encourages him/her to try to resolve this informally in the first instance.

If a complaint fails to be resolved informally the candidate (or his/her parent/carer) is then at liberty to make a formal complaint.

How to make a formal complaint

- ▶ Farmor's School **Complaints policy** details the steps involved in making a formal complaint. This policy is available on the school website.
- ▶ A complaint should be submitted in writing to the Head Teacher. The form in Appendix A could be used for this purpose.
- ▶ Complaints received will be logged by the centre and acknowledged within 2 calendar days.

How a formal complaint is investigated

- ▶ The Head Teacher will decide if the matter falls within the complaints procedure and in acknowledging receipt will confirm the name of the member of staff who is dealing with the complaint and outline the next steps.
- ▶ If the Headteacher decides that the matter does not fall within the complaints procedure then this will be explained together with advice about what to do next.
- ▶ The Head Teacher will further investigate or appoint a member of the senior leadership team (who is not involved in the grounds for complaint and has no personal interest in the outcome) to investigate the complaint and report on the findings and conclusion.
- ▶ You will be offered the opportunity to meet with the Head Teacher to try and bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. A written response to this meeting will be made within five days.

Internal appeals procedure

Following the outcome, if the complainant remains dissatisfied and believes there are clear grounds, an appeal can be submitted. This is detailed in Stage 3 of the Farmor's School Complaints Policy.

Complaints form (Appendix A)

FOR CENTRE USE ONLY	
Date received	
Reference No.	

Please tick box to indicate the nature of your complaint/appeal

- Complaint against the centre's delivery of a qualification
- Complaint against the centre's administration of a qualification

Name of complainant	
Candidate name if different to complainant	

Please state the grounds for your complaint below

If your complaint is lengthy please write as bullet points; please keep to the point and include relevant detail such as dates, names etc. and provide any evidence you may have to support what you say

If necessary, continue on an additional page if this form is being completed electronically or overleaf if hard copy being completed

Detail any steps you have already taken to resolve the issue(s) and what you would consider to be a good resolution to the issue(s)

Complainant signature:

Date of signature:

This form must be completed in full; an incomplete form will be returned to the complainant