

The background of the page is a photograph of a school building with a central tower topped by a cross. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent rainbow-colored filter that is most prominent in the center.

THOMAS BECKET CATHOLIC SCHOOL SEND Word Processing Policy 2023/2024

LAC Chair	Mr Chris Atkin
Headteacher:	M Paul McCahill
Last reviewed on:	1 st September 2023
Next review due by:	1 st September 2024

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

References in this policy to AA and ICE relate to/are directly taken from the Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2021-2022 and Instructions for Conducting Examinations 2021-2022 publications.

Introduction

The use of a word processor in exams and assessments is an available access arrangement. (AA 4.2.1)

The purpose of an access arrangement 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.

The SENDCo, or an equivalent member of staff within a FE college, must ensure that the proposed access arrangement does not disadvantage or advantage the candidate. (AA 4.2.2)

Although access arrangements are intended to allow access to assessments, they cannot be granted where they will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question. (AA 4.2.3)

Candidates may not require the same access arrangements in each specification. Subjects and their methods of assessments may vary, leading to different demands of the candidate. SENCos/ALS Manager must consider the need for access arrangements on a subject-by-subject basis.

Purpose of the policy

This policy details how St Thomas Becket complies with AA (chapter 4) Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties and (chapter 5.8) Word processor when awarding and allocating a candidate the use of word processor in his/her exams. The term 'word processor' is used to describe for example, the use of a computer, laptop or tablet.

The use of a word processor

The centre will:

- allocate the use of a word processor to a candidate where it is their normal way of working within the centre (AA 5.8.1)
- award the use of a word processor to a candidate if it is appropriate to their needs. Needs may include

- a learning difficulty which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to write legibly
 - a medical condition
 - a physical disability
 - a sensory impairment
 - planning and organisational problems when writing by hand
 - poor handwriting (AA 5.8.4)
- only permit the use of a word processor where the integrity of the assessment can be maintained (AA 4.2.1)
 - not grant the use of a word processor where it will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question (AA 4.2.2)
 - must consider on a subject-by-subject basis if the candidate will need to use a word processor in each specification (AA 4.2.3)
 - consider the needs of the candidate at the start of the candidate's course leading to a qualification based on evidence gathered that firmly establishes the candidate's needs and 'normal way of working' in the classroom, internal tests/exams, mock exams etc. and confirm arrangements in place before the candidate takes an exam or assessment (AA 4.2.4)
 - provide access to word processors to candidates in non-examination assessment components as standard practice unless prohibited by the specification (AA 5.8.2)

The centre will not:

- simply grant the use of a word processor to a candidate because he/she prefers to type rather than write or can work faster on a keyboard, or because he/she uses a laptop at home (AA 5.8.4)

Exceptions

The only exceptions to the above where the use of a word processor would be considered for a candidate would be:

- 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 (AA 4.2.4).
- where a subject within the curriculum is delivered electronically and the centre provides word processors to all candidates (AA 5.8.4).

Arrangements at the time of the assessment for the use of a word processor

In compliance with the regulations, the centre will:

- Ensure a candidate using a word processor is accommodated in a different room where possible from the main cohort, usually with a small number of other candidates using a word processor.
- provide a word processor with the spelling and grammar check facility/predictive text disabled (switched off) unless an awarding body's specification says otherwise (ICE 14.20)
- ensure the candidate is reminded to ensure that his/her centre number, candidate number and the unit/component code appear on each page as a header or footer e.g. 12345/8001 – 6391/01 (ICE 14.22)
- ensure the candidate understands that each page of the typed script must be numbered, e.g. page 1 of 6 (ICE 14.23)

- ensure the candidate is reminded to save his/her work at regular intervals.
- instruct the candidate to use a minimum of 12pt font and double spacing in order to assist examiners when marking (ICE 14.24) (ICE 14.25)

The centre will ensure the word processor:

- is only used in a way that ensures a candidate's script is produced under secure conditions.
- is in good working order at the time of the exam.
- is accommodated in such a way that other candidates are not disturbed and cannot read the screen
- is used as a typewriter, not as a database, although standard formatting software is acceptable and is not connected to an intranet or any other means of communication
- is cleared of any previously stored data.
- does not give the candidate access to other applications such as a calculator (where prohibited in the examination), spreadsheets etc.
- does not include graphic packages or computer aided design software unless permission has been given to use these 6.
- 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.
- does not include speech recognition technology unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe or relevant software.
- is not used on the candidate's behalf by a third party unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe.

Portable storage medium

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

Printing the script after the exam is over

The centre will ensure:

- 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.
- the candidate is present to verify that the work printed is his or her own.
- a word-processed script is attached to any answer booklet which contains some of the answers.
- a word processor cover sheet (Form 4) is completed and included with the candidate's typed script (if required by an awarding body)

Reviewed by: Susan Kean SENDCo TBCS

Date Reviewed: 01/01/2023

Date to be reviewed by: 01/01/2024