

Candidate Absence Policy

2025/26

The Basildon Upper Academy

Candidate Absence Policy 2025/26

Centre name	The Basildon Upper Academy
Centre number	16133
Date policy first created	02/10/2025
Current policy approved by	Rebecca Rees
Current policy reviewed by	Sophie Rowe
Date of review	02/10/2025
Date of next review	02/10/2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Rebecca Rees
Senior leader(s)	Sharon Szuskiewicz Simon Bellenie
Exams officer	Sophie Rowe
Other staff (if applicable)	

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that candidate absence from examinations at The Basildon Upper Academy is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to ICE and SC refer to the JCQ documents **Instructions for conducting examinations** and **A guide to the special consideration process**.

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements for candidates who are absent from an examination at The Basildon Upper Academy.

An absent candidate may subsequently arrive once the exam is underway, becoming a late or very late arrival, at which point The Basildon Upper Academy reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow a candidate who arrives after the start of the examination to enter the examination room and sit the examination. (See **Candidate Late Arrival Policy**)

Based upon the circumstances for the absence, and subject to the required conditions being met, an application for special consideration may also be made to the relevant awarding body.

1. Identifying and dealing with candidate absence

A candidate will be considered absent from an examination if:

- The candidate is not present at the time the register is taken in the exam venue and the examination has already started. Or if the student does not turn up to sit the examination.

Once a candidate is identified as absent from an examination, the following action will be taken:

- The candidate will be contacted as to their whereabouts and as far as possible arrangements made to ensure their immediate arrival

If a candidate fails to sit an examination, the following action is taken:

- A confirmed candidate absence is clearly recorded on the attendance register which is sent to the awarding body/examiner
- The candidate absence is noted on the seating plan by crossing through the candidate details

2. Roles and responsibilities

Overview

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with candidate absence once it has been identified:

- Attendance Officer, Lisa Butler.

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with candidates who are persistently absent from examinations:

- Headteacher: Rebecca Rees

Deputy Head: Sharon Szuszkiewicz

Attendance Officer: Lisa Butler

Additionally, the head of years will need to be monitoring persistent absent candidates and contacting home to offer support.

The current head of years are:

Year 10: Victoria Allen

Year 11: Aisha Khan

Sixth Form: Nicola Winterflood, Megn Oates and Kerry McCarthy

The role of invigilators

Invigilators will:

- Be informed of the process for dealing with absent candidates through training
- Ensure that absent candidates are clearly indicated on the attendance register (ICE 22.4)

Additional responsibilities:

not applicable

The role of candidates

Candidates will be:

- Re-charged any relevant entry fees for unauthorised absence from examinations

Additional responsibilities:

not applicable

3. Special consideration

At The Basildon Upper Academy if a candidate is absent from a timetabled written examination for an acceptable reason, the candidate may be eligible for special consideration. This is where an adjustment may be made to the candidate's grade by the awarding body, providing the following conditions are met:

- The examination is in the candidate's terminal exam series (SC 4.2)
- The candidate has completed or will be able to complete the required percentage of the assessment to meet the minimum requirements for enhanced grading in cases of acceptable absence (SC 4.5)
- The application for special consideration can be supported by the centre with appropriate evidence authorised by a member of the senior leadership team (SC 6)

It is the responsibility of the following member(s) of staff to deal with special consideration requests and applications:

- Sophie Rowe (Exams Officer)

Changes 2025/2026

(Changed) Under heading **Special Consideration**:

Changed bullet point: The application for special consideration can be supported by appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team (SC 6) To: The application for special consideration can be supported by the centre with appropriate evidence authorised by a member of the senior leadership team (SC 6)

Centre-specific changes

Upon review in October 2025, there have been no centre specific changes for the academic year 2025/26.