

EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY

(EXAMINATIONS)

Beal High School (Centre number 13317)

The Forest Academy (Centre number 13313)

Beacon Business and Innovation Hub (Centre 13362)

Area/Department responsible for policy	TRUST/EXAMS MANAGER
Approval Body:	Trust Executive
Date of last review:	October 2025
Statutory (DFE) Yes/No	No

1. **BACKGROUND, AIMS AND REGULATIONS**

1. **This policy** details how the Beacon Multi Academy Trust deals with an emergency evacuation of the examination room(s), by defining staff roles and responsibilities and confirming the emergency evacuation procedure.
2. **An emergency evacuation is required** where it is unsafe for candidates to remain in the examination room. This might include a fire in the examination room, the fire alarm sounding to warn of fire, bomb alert or other serious threat. In exceptional circumstances, where candidates might be severely disadvantaged or distressed by remaining in the examinations room, the emergency evacuation procedure may also need to be followed. This might include situations where there is severe disruption in the examination room, serious illness or a candidate or invigilator or a similarly serious incident.
3. **Regulations:** This plan complies with the [Joint Council for Qualifications \(JCQ\) Instructions for Conducting Examinations](#), section 25, which require all exam centres to have a written emergency evacuation of the examination room, which will be subject to inspection by the JCQ Centre Inspection Service.
4. **Use of Policy:** The evacuation will take place when the fire alarm sounds AND when the cause is determined to be legitimate and require evacuation.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Head of Centre:

- 1.1. Ensures the Emergency Evacuation Policy for exams is fit for purpose and complies with the relevant health and safety regulations.
- 1.2. Ensures any instructions from relevant local or national agencies are referenced and followed where applicable, including information from the [National Counter Terrorism Security Office](#) on the procedure for handling bomb threats.
- 1.3. Where safe to do so, ensures candidates are given the opportunity to sit exams for their published duration.

2. Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)

- 2.1. Ensures appropriate arrangements are in place for the emergency evacuation of a disabled candidate from an exam room where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for that candidate.
- 2.2. Ensures the candidate is informed prior to taking their exams of what will happen in the event of an emergency evacuation.

3. Exams Officer

- 3.1. Ensures invigilators are trained in the emergency evacuation procedures and how an incident and actions taken must be recorded.
- 3.2. Ensures candidates are briefed, prior to exams taking place, on what will happen in the event of an emergency in the exam room.
- 3.3. Provides invigilators with a copy of the Emergency Evacuation Procedure for every room and every exam.
- 3.4. Provides a standard invigilator announcement for each exam room which includes appropriate instructions for candidates about the emergency procedures and what will happen if the alarm sounds.
- 3.5. Provides an exam room incident log in each exam room.
- 3.6. Liaises with the SENCo and other relevant staff prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate.
- 3.7. Briefs invigilators prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- 3.8. Ensures appropriate follow-up is undertaken after an emergency evacuation; reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken through the *Special Consideration* process

where applicable, particularly where a group of candidates may have been disadvantaged by the event.

- 3.9. Review this Policy annually, with appropriate oversight from the Trust Executive and/or Board of Trustees and/or Local Governing Bodies.

4. Invigilators

- 4.1. Ensure they understand what to do in the event of an emergency evacuation of an exam room, by attending training and/or update sessions.
- 4.2. Follow the actions required in the emergency evacuation procedure issued to them for every exam room.
- 4.3. Confirm with the Exams Officer, where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate they are invigilating.
- 4.4. Record details on the Exam Room Incident Log to support follow-up reporting to the awarding body by the Exams Officer (see section 4 below).
- 4.5. Support the senior leader(s), SENCo, Exams Officer, and Invigilators in ensuring the safe emergency evacuation of exam rooms.

3. INCIDENT REPORTING

1. As soon as practicably possible and when it is safe to do so, details of the incident should be recorded on the **Exam Room Incident Log**. Details must include:
2. The actual start time of the interruption/incident/evacuation
3. The action taken
4. The actual time the examinations was resumed
5. The actual finish time of the resumed examination
6. Further details should include:
7. Details of candidates' behaviour throughout the interruption/evacuation
8. A judgement on the impact on candidates following the interruption/evacuation
9. Details of any candidates who failed to adhere to the examination conditions throughout the evacuation

EXAMS EMERGENCY EVACUATION

APPENDIX 1 – STOPPING THE EXAM PROCEDURE

PRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT
Make a written note of the time you are stopping the exam.
“Please stop writing and put your pens down.” “Close your question and answer papers and leave them on your desks” “We are waiting for confirmation that the alarm requires evacuation or not.” “You are still under examination condition so remain silent and do not write again until told to do so. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.”
Make sure candidates are supervised as closely as possible to make sure there is no communication about the examination or attempts to cheat.
1. If the alarm proves to require evacuation please proceed to Appendix 2: Emergency Evacuation Procedure
2. <u>If the alarm proves to not require evacuation, candidates can restart the exam:</u> • Make a note of the time • Make a note of the how long the interruption lasted (e.g. 15 minutes) • Update the new finish time on the examination display board • Resume the exam and allow candidates the full time set for the examination.
Make a full report of the incident on the Invigilator incident log and pass to the Exams Officer
Additional Centre Specific Actions
Exams Officer to process application for Special Considerations

EXAMS EMERGENCY EVACUATION

APPENDIX 2 - EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT
Collect the attendance register in order to ensure all candidates are present once evacuated.
“You are still under examination condition so remain silent. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.” “Please exit the room and follow the invigilators”
Where more than one exit is used, advise them which exit to use.
Make sure candidates are supervised as closely as possible while that are out of the examination room to make sure there is no discussion about the examination.
<u>Once candidates are permitted to return to the examination room and seated:</u> • Make a note of the time • Make a note of the how long the interruption lasted (e.g. 15 minutes) • Update the new finish time on the examination display board • Resume the exam and allow candidates the full time set for the examination.
Make a full report of the incident on the Invigilator incident log and pass to the Exams Officer
Additional Centre Specific Actions
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EXAMS EMERGENCY EVACUATION

APPENDIX 3 – CENTRE SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

Beal High School (Centre number 13317)

- Should students be required to evacuate from one or more exam venues (including access arrangements rooms):
 - They will be instructed that they remain in exam conditions
 - They will be instructed to leave everything in the exams room
 - The lead invigilator, with support from senior leaders and the exams team, will lead them to:
 - The basketball courts, between upper and lower sites (KS4)
 - If there are exams for KS4 and KS5 concurrently, KS5 will be led to the hard court between upper and lower site, next to the IT pavilion
 - The students will line up in seating plan order, leaving one metre between them
 - Invigilators, senior leaders and the teachers who were timetabled to teach the groups at the time of the evacuation will support maintaining exam conditions
 - On 'all clear' from senior leadership, the students will return first, before other students, to the exam rooms to recommence exams – returning to the procedure in appendix 2 above.

The Forest Academy (Centre number 13313)

- Should students be required to evacuate from one or more exam venues (including access arrangements rooms):
 - They will be instructed that they remain in exam conditions
 - They will be instructed to leave everything in the exams room
 - The lead invigilator, with support from senior leaders and the exams team, will lead them to:
 - The hard court outside the PE block and on to the grass outside PE.
 - If there are exams for KS4 and KS5 concurrently, KS5 will be led to the grass pitches, outside the fence of the basketball courts – separate from the rest of their cohort
 - The students will line up in seating plan order, leaving one metre between them

- Invigilators, senior leaders and the teachers who were timetabled to teach the groups at the time of the evacuation will support maintaining exam conditions
- On 'all clear' from senior leadership, the students will return first, before other students, to the exam rooms to recommence exams – returning to the procedure in appendix 2 above.

BBIH (Centre 13362)

- Should students be required to evacuate from one or more exam venues (including access arrangements rooms):
 - They will be instructed that they remain in exam conditions
 - They will be instructed to leave everything in the exams room
 - The lead invigilator, with support from senior leaders and the exams team, will lead them to:
 - The hard court space outside the IT pavilion, separate from the rest of their cohort
 - The students will line up in seating plan order, leaving one metre between them
 - Invigilators, senior leaders and the teachers who were timetabled to teach the groups at the time of the evacuation will support maintaining exam conditions
 - On 'all clear' from senior leadership, the students will return first, before other students, to the exam rooms to recommence exams – returning to the procedure in appendix 2 above.