



ARCHWAY SCHOOL

Emergency Evacuation Policy (Exams)

2020/21

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

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| Approved/reviewed by | |
| KAY YOUNG | |
| Date of next review | OCT 2021 |

Key staff involved in the emergency evacuation policy/procedure

| Role | Name(s) |
|----------------|--|
| Head of centre | KIERON SMITH |
| Exams officer | LESLEY RYALL |
| Senior leaders | KAY YOUNG DOM SALMON HAZEL MORGAN RACHEL O'BRYAN JULIAN YOUNG |
| ALS lead/SENCo | LEE JOHNSON |

Purpose of the policy

This policy details how Archway School deals with an emergency evacuation of the exam room(s) by defining staff roles and responsibilities and confirming the emergency evacuation procedure.

When is an emergency evacuation required?

An emergency evacuation is required where it is unsafe for candidates to remain in the exam room. This might include a fire in the exam room, the fire alarm sounding to warn of fire, bomb alert or other serious threat.

In exceptional situations, where candidates might be severely disadvantaged or distressed by remaining in the exam room, the emergency evacuation procedure may also need to be followed. This might include situations where there is severe disruption in the exam room, serious illness of a candidate or invigilator or similarly serious incidents.

As each incident may be different, advice will be sought from the relevant awarding body as soon as it is safe to do so, particularly where the centre is concerned about the security of the examination(s). (ICE 25.4)

Where candidates are unable to return to the building to complete the examination, the relevant awarding body will be contacted immediately for advice. The awarding bodies have procedures in place to ensure that candidates are not disadvantaged where they are unable to complete the examination due to circumstances beyond their control. (ICE 24.5)

Emergency evacuation of an exam room

Roles and responsibilities

Head of centre

- Ensures the emergency evacuation policy for exams is fit for purpose and complies with relevant health and safety regulation
- 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 Procedures for handling bomb threats <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bomb-threats-guidance/procedures-for-handling-bomb-threats>
- Where safe to do so, ensures candidates are given the opportunity to sit exams for their published duration

Senior leader

- Where responsible for the centre-wide emergency evacuation procedure, ensures all staff and appointed fire marshals are aware of the policy and procedures to be followed when an emergency evacuation of an exam room is required

Additional learning support (ALS) lead/Special educational needs coordinator (SENCo)

- 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 the candidate
- Ensures the candidate is informed prior to taking their exams of what will happen in the event of an emergency evacuation

Exams officer

- Ensures invigilators are trained in emergency evacuation procedures and how an incident and actions taken must be recorded
- Ensures candidates are briefed (via exam handbook), prior to exams taking place, on what will happen in the event of an emergency in the exam room
- Provides invigilators with a copy of the emergency evacuation procedure for every exam room
- Provides a standard invigilator announcement for each exam room which includes appropriate instructions for candidates about emergency procedures and what will happen if the fire alarm sounds
- Provides an exam room incident log in each exam room
- Liaises with the ALS lead/SENCo and other relevant staff prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- Briefs invigilators prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- 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 (in cases where a group of candidates have been disadvantaged by a particular event)

Invigilators

- By attending training and/or update sessions, ensure they understand what to do in the event of an emergency in the exam room
- Follow the actions required in the emergency evacuation procedure issued to them for every exam room
- Confirm with the exams officer, where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate, they are invigilating
- Record details on the exam room incident log to support follow-up reporting to the awarding body by the exams officer (see below)

Other relevant centre staff

- Support the senior leader, ALS lead/SENCo, exams officer and invigilators in ensuring the safe emergency evacuation of exam rooms

Recording details

As soon as practically possible and safe to do so, details should be recorded. Details must include:


- the actual time of the start of the interruption
- the actions taken
- the actual time the exam(s) resumed
- the actual finishing time(s) of the resumed exam(s)

Further details could include:

- report on candidate behaviour throughout the interruption/evacuation
- a judgement on the impact on candidates after the interruption/evacuation

Emergency evacuation procedure

Invigilators are trained in this procedure and understand the actions they must take in the event of a fire alarm or other emergency that leads to an evacuation of the exam room.

| Emergency evacuation procedure | |
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| Actions to be taken (as detailed in current JCQ Instructions for conducting examinations section 25, Emergencies) | |
| Stop the candidates from writing | |
| Collect the attendance register (in order to ensure all candidates are present) | |
| Evacuate the examination room in line with the instructions given by the appropriate authority | |
| Advise candidates to leave all question papers and scripts in the examination room Candidates must be advised to close their answer booklet | |
| Ensure candidates leave the room in silence | |
| Ensure the candidates are supervised as closely as possible while they are out of the examination room to make sure there is no discussion about the examination | |
| Make a note of the time of the interruption and how long it lasted | |
| Allow the candidates the remainder of the working time set for the examination once it resumes | |
| If there are only a few candidates, consider the possibility of taking the candidates (with question papers and scripts) to another place to finish the examination | |
| Make a full report of the incident and of the action taken, and send to the relevant awarding body | |
| Additional centre-specific actions to be taken | |
|  | Emergency Evacuation of an Examination Room |

Take the following action in an emergency such as a fire alarm:

- In the gym – Tell the candidates to stop writing, note the time and await further instructions from EO/ SLT in person or via mobile or internal radio. If evacuation is needed leave the question papers and scripts on their desks.
- Evacuate the room in an orderly fashion without talking. The candidates must not attempt to collect bags or coats.
- The invigilator should collect the exam register and evacuate the candidates by following the emergency exit signs to the tennis courts away from other students.
- When assembled check the candidates against the exams register.
- The examination candidates must not have contact with other pupils and must not have mobile phones in their possession.
- Make sure that the candidates are supervised as closely as possible while they are out of the examination room.
- Make sure there is no discussion about the examination. Inform the candidates that they are still under examination regulations.
- Make a note of the time of the interruption and how long it lasted.
- At the end of the emergency the EO or a senior member of staff will inform you when to return to the examination room.
- On return to the examination room allow the candidates the full working time set for the examination.
- Make a full written report of the incident to the EO.