



Prudhoe Community High School	
Name of Policy	<b>Word Processing Policy</b>
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Approved by:	Chair: Beth Hudspith Date: 14/11/25
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This policy details how Prudhoe Community High School complies with Access Arrangements, chapter 4 (Managing the needs of candidates and principles for centres), section 5.8 (Word processor).

The term 'word processor' is used to describe for example, the use of a computer, laptop or tablet.

This policy is reviewed and updated annually on the publication of updated JCQ regulations.

References in this policy to AA and ICE relate to/are directly taken from the JCQ publications

## **Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments and Instructions for conducting examinations.**

### **Introduction**

The use of a word processor in exams and assessments is an available access arrangement/reasonable adjustment. The purpose of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing them from being placed at a substantial disadvantage as a consequence of persistent and significant difficulties.

The following principles are applied to access arrangements at Prudhoe Community High School:

- The purpose of an access arrangement/reasonable adjustment is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing them 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. ([JCQ Access Arrangements 4.2.1](#))
- Although access arrangements/adjustments are intended to allow access to assessments, they are not granted where they will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question. (JCQ AA 4.2.2)
- Candidates may not require the same access arrangements/reasonable adjustments in each specification. Subjects and their methods of assessments may vary, leading to different demands of the candidate. Subject leads/SENCOs must consider the need for access arrangements/reasonable adjustments on a subject-by-subject basis. (JCQ AA 4.2.3)
- The Additional Learning Support lead/SENCO must ensure that the proposed access arrangement/reasonable adjustment does not disadvantage or advantage a candidate. (JCQ AA 4.2.1)
- (The candidate must have had appropriate opportunities to practice using the access arrangement(s)/reasonable adjustments before their first examination.

## **The use of a word processor**

Prudhoe Community High School will:

- allocate the use of a word processor to a candidate with the spelling and grammar check/predictive text disabled (switched off) 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 where appropriate to their needs (AA 5.8.4)

For example, a candidate with:

- 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
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- 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) consider on a subject-by-subject basis if the candidate will need to use a word processor in each specification (AA 4.2.3)
  - process access arrangements/reasonable adjustments at the start of the course, or as soon as practicable having firmly established a picture of need and normal way of working, ensuring arrangements are always approved before an examination or assessment (AA 4.2.4)
  - provide the use of word processors to candidates in non-examination assessment components as standard practice unless prohibited by the specification (AA 5.8.2)

Prudhoe Community High School will not:

- simply grant the use of a word processor to a candidate because he/she now wants to type rather than write in examinations 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 the curriculum is delivered electronically and the centre provides word processors to all candidates

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

A candidate using a word processor is accommodated as follows:

- Normally in a separate room unless they request to be with the main cohort

In compliance with the regulations, Prudhoe Community High School:

- provides a word processor with the spelling and grammar check facility/predictive text disabled (switched off) unless an awarding body's specification says otherwise
- checks the battery capacity of the word processor before the candidate's exam to ensure that the battery is sufficiently charged for the entire duration of the exam
- instructs the candidate to use a minimum of 12pt font

Prudhoe Community High School will ensure the word processor:

- is only used in a way that ensures a candidate's script is produced under secure conditions
- ensure the word processor is not used to perform skills which are being assessed
- ensure the word processor is not connected to an intranet or any other means of communication
- 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
- 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**

Prudhoe Community High School will ensure that any portable storage medium (e.g. a memory stick) used:

- is provided by the centre
- is cleared of any previously stored data

### **Printing the script after the exam has ended**

Prudhoe Community High School will ensure that:

- 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 their own
- a word processed script is attached to any answer booklet which contains some of the answers
- where an awarding body requires a cover sheet to be completed this is included with the candidate's typed script (according to the relevant awarding body's instructions)

### **Statement**

JCQ regulations (**Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments**, section 5.8) state: A member of the centre's senior leadership team must produce a statement for inspection purposes which details the criteria the centre uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations.

The criteria used to award and allocate word processors for examinations

Prudhoe Community High School confirms the normal way of working in examinations is:

candidates handwrite responses on their examination scripts (an exception to this is where a candidate may have an approved access arrangement in place, for example the use of a scribe/speech recognition technology)

## **Awarding the use of word processors**

There are exceptions when Prudhoe Community High School may award a candidate the use of a word processor in examinations where: the candidate has a firmly established need it reflects the candidate's normal way of working by not being awarded a word processor the candidate would be at a substantial disadvantage to other candidates

This may include where a candidate has, for example:

- 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

## **Allocating the use of word processors at the time of the assessment**

Appropriate exam-compliant word processors will be allocated by the IT department in liaison with the Heads of Department /SENCo and the exams officer

In exceptional circumstances where the number of compliant word processors may be insufficient for the cohort of candidates approved to use them in an exam session:

- the cohort will be split into two groups
- one group will sit the exam earlier than or later than the awarding body's published start time
- the security of the exam will be maintained at all times and candidates will be supervised in line with section 7.2 of ICE
- Other centre specific information relating to allocating the use of a word processor: