



Heddingham School & Sixth Form

Leaving the Examination Room Policy 2026

Reviewed by Mrs Powell, Exams Officer

Approved by the Curriculum and Personnel Committee on:	
It was ratified by the Full Governing Body on:	
Next review due by:	Ongoing

Leaving the Examination Room Policy

Centre name	Hedingham School and Sixth Form
Centre number	16519
Date policy first created	27/02/2024
Current policy approved by	John Pearson
Current policy reviewed by	Nina Powell
Date of review	17/02/2026
Date of next review	17/02/2027

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name
Head of centre	Paul Finch
Senior leader(s)	John Pearson
Exams officer	Nina Powell
Other staff (if applicable)	

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that candidates leaving the examination room at Hedingham School and Sixth Form is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to ICE refer to the JCQ document **Instructions for conducting examinations**.

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm that candidates leaving the examination room at Hedingham School and Sixth Form is managed in line with JCQ regulations.

This policy confirms:

- the correct procedures are followed in relation to candidates leaving the examination room
- Hedingham School and Sixth Form reserves the right to exercise discretion whether to allow extra time to compensate candidates for their temporary absence from the examination room

1. Arrangements for leaving the examination room

- For examinations that last one hour or more, candidates must stay under centre supervision until 10.00am for a morning examination or 2.30pm for an afternoon examination, i.e. one hour after the awarding body's published starting time for that examination (ICE 23.1)
- For examinations that last less than one hour, candidates must be supervised and question papers must be kept in secure storage until the published finishing time of the examination (ICE 23.2)
- Candidates who are allowed to leave the examination room temporarily must be accompanied by a member of centre staff. This must not be the candidate's subject teacher or a subject expert for the examination in question. (ICE 23.3)

Candidates may be allowed extra time at the discretion of the centre to compensate for their temporary absence. (ICE 23.5)

- Candidates can only leave the examination room where necessary or where supervised rest breaks have been granted by the SENCo. The centre must ensure that candidates who leave the room do not have access to any unauthorised materials. (ICE 23.4)
- Candidates who have finished the examination and have been allowed to leave the examination room early must hand in their script, question paper and any other material before they leave the examination room. Those candidates must not be allowed back into the room (ICE 23.6)
- At the end of the examination, candidates must hand in their script, question paper and any other material before they leave the examination room (ICE 23.7)

The following arrangements are applied at Hedingham School and Sixth Form:

Leaving the exam room to go to the toilet will not be allowed in the first 30 minutes or last 15 minutes of an exam, except for candidates who have a toilet card.

Where students do leave the exam room, they will be observed by invigilators as they leave to ensure the integrity of the exam and supervised by an invigilator whilst outside the exam room.

- Candidates who are allowed to leave the examination room temporarily may be allowed extra time to compensate for their temporary absence (ICE 23.5)

Where the candidate leaves the room for a known medical reason, e.g. to manage sugar levels in a diabetic student.

Additional arrangements:

Not applicable

2. Roles and responsibilities

The role of the exams office/officer

- Through training, ensure invigilators are aware how candidates who may be allowed to leave the examination room temporarily should be managed and recorded

Additional responsibilities:

Not applicable

The role of the invigilator

- Ensure a candidate who may be allowed to leave the examination room temporarily is accompanied by a member of centre staff who is not the candidate's subject teacher or a subject expert for the examination in question (ICE 23.3)
- Record instances on the exam room incident log of candidates who may be allowed to leave the examination room temporarily because they may be feeling unwell or require a toilet break (ICE 20.2)
- Ensure candidates who have finished the examination and have been allowed to leave the examination room early hand in their script, question paper and any other material before they leave the examination room. Ensure those candidates are not allowed back into the room (ICE 23.6)
- At the end of the examination, ensure candidates hand in their script, question paper and any other material before they leave the examination room (ICE 23.7)

Invigilators will record students who leave the exam room on the incident log or the toilet break record form. For students whose exam finish time is changed due to their absence from the room, a post-it note will be placed on their desk with the new finish time recorded for the candidate's information and a note will be made at the front of the exam room for invigilation purposes.

Additional responsibilities:

Not applicable

Changes 2025/2026

(Added) Under heading **Arrangements for leaving the examination room**, optional insert field added to allow for expansion on the arrangements applied at the centre.

(Added) Under heading **The role of the invigilator** optional insert field added to allow for expansion on recording incidents and timings, etc.

Centre-specific changes

Upon review in February 2026, no centre-specific updates or changes were applicable to this document.