

# St Richard's Catholic College

## MALPRACTICE POLICY (EXAMS)



The Policy was approved by the Governing Body: October 2025

Chair of Governors: \_\_\_\_\_

The Governing Body will review the policy in: October 2026

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any malpractice at St Richards Catholic College is managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

**Reference in the policy to GR and SMPP relate to relevant sections of the current JCQ documents** General Regulations for Approved Centres **and** Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures.

## **Introduction**

### **What is malpractice and maladministration?**

'Malpractice' and 'maladministration' are related concepts, the common theme being that they involve a failure to follow the rules of an examination or assessment. This policy and procedure uses the word 'malpractice' to cover both 'malpractice' and 'maladministration' and it means any act, default or practice which is:

- a breach of the Regulations, and/or
- a breach of Awarding Body requirements regarding how a qualification should be delivered, and/or
- a failure to follow established procedures in relation to a qualification

which:

- gives rise to prejudice to candidates, and/or
- compromises public confidence in qualifications, and/or
- compromises, attempts to compromise or may compromise the process of assessment, the integrity of any qualification or the validity of a result or certificate, and/or
- damages the authority, reputation or credibility of any Awarding Body or centre or any officer, employee or agent of any Awarding Body or centre (SMPP 1)

### **Candidate malpractice**

'Candidate malpractice' normally involves malpractice by a candidate in connection with any examination or assessment, including the preparation and authentication of any controlled assessments, coursework or non-examination assessments, the presentation of any practical work, the compilation of portfolios of assessment evidence and the completion of any examination. (SMPP 2)

### **Centre staff malpractice**

'Centre staff malpractice' means malpractice committed by:

- a member of staff, contractor (whether employed under a contract of employment or a contract for services) or a volunteer at a centre, or
- an individual appointed in another capacity by a centre such as an invigilator, a Communication Professional, a Language Modifier, a practical assistant, a prompter, a reader or a scribe (SMPP 2)

## Centre Malpractice

Centre malpractice normally involves malpractice where there is an element of systemic failure, a breach in policies or widespread malpractice such that a centre-level sanction is appropriate (SMPP 2)

## Suspected malpractice

For the purposes of this document, suspected malpractice means all alleged or suspected incidents of malpractice (regardless of how the incident might be categorised, as described in SMPP, section 19). (SMPP 2)

## Purpose of the policy

To confirm St Richards Catholic College:

- has in place a written malpractice policy which covers all qualifications delivered by the centre and details how candidates are informed and advised to avoid committing malpractice in examinations/assessments, how suspected malpractice issues should be escalated within the centre and reported to the relevant Awarding Body
- has in place for inspection that must be reviewed and updated annually, a written malpractice policy which covers all qualifications delivered by the centre detailing how candidates are informed and advised to avoid committing malpractice in examinations/assessments, how suspected malpractice issues should be escalated within the centre and reported to the relevant Awarding Body; also acknowledges the use of AI (e.g. what AI is, when it may be used and how it should be acknowledged, the risks of using AI, what AI misuse is and how this will be treated as malpractice)

## General principles

In accordance with the regulations St Richards Catholic College will:

- take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of any malpractice (which includes maladministration) before, during and after assessments have taken place (GR 5.11)
- inform the Awarding Body **immediately** of any alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice or maladministration, involving a candidate or a member of staff, by completing the appropriate documentation (GR 5.11)
- as required by an Awarding Body, gather evidence of any instances of alleged or suspected malpractice (which includes maladministration) in accordance with the current JCQ document **Suspected Malpractice - Policies and Procedures** and provide such information and advice as the Awarding Body may reasonably require (GR 5.11)

## Preventing malpractice

St Richards Catholic College has in place:

- Robust processes to prevent and identify malpractice, as outlined in section 3 of the JCQ document **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures**. (SMPP 4.3)

- This includes ensuring that staff involved in the delivery of assessments and examinations understand the requirements for conducting these as specified in the following JCQ documents and any further Awarding Body guidance:
  - General Regulations for Approved Centres 2025-2026
  - Instructions for conducting examinations (ICE) 2025-2026
  - Instructions for conducting coursework 2025-2026
  - Instructions for conducting non-examination assessments 2025-2026
  - Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2025-2026
  - A guide to the special consideration process 2025-2026
  - Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures 2025-2026 (this document)
  - Plagiarism in Assessments
  - AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications
  - Post Results Services June 2026 and November 2025
  - A guide to the Awarding Bodies' appeals processes 2025-2026
  - Guidance for centres on cyber security

(SMPP 3.2)

### **Informing and advising candidates how to avoid committing malpractice in examinations/assessments**

Candidates are briefed and informed about malpractice in examinations, NEAs and PSAs (Pearson Set Assessments) at the beginning of the course. Updates and reminders are given continuously during the course, by Subject Teachers, Pastoral Leaders and the EO. Candidates, Parents/Carers are signposted to all JCQ documentation and the Examination Guidance booklet, via email communication and via the termly newsletter. The EO speaks to candidates in classes at the start of the courses and holds an examinations assembly in the spring, before the start of the June series.

Staff, pupils, parents/carers are signposted to the JCQ **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications** document.

AI and internet access is disabled during external exams. Chat GPT and all other AI applications are blocked when completing NEA and PSA work during the school day. Candidates are reminded that AI should not be used when completing work at home.

Candidates all sign authentication documents, confirming that the work being submitted is their own and that AI has not been used at any point.

## AI use in assessments

With reference to the JCQ guidance for Teachers & Assessors - *AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications*:

Pupils complete the majority of their exams and a large number of other assessments under close staff supervision with limited access to authorised materials and no permitted access to the internet. The delivery of these assessments should be unaffected by developments in AI tools as pupils must not be able to use such tools when completing these assessments.

There are some assessments in which access to the internet is permitted in the preparatory, research or production stages. The majority of these assessments will be Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs), coursework and internal assessments for General Qualifications (GQs) and Vocational & Technical Qualifications (VTQs). JCQ's guidance which is designed to help pupils and teachers to complete NEAs, coursework and other internal assessments successfully is followed in relation to these assessments.

The following JCQ support resources are also used to help teachers understand and prevent AI misuse and to help pupils to better understand the rules for use of AI in assessments:

- AI Information Sheet for Teachers,
- AI Senior Leader Presentation for Teachers,
- AI Poster for Pupils,
- AI Teacher Presentation for Students.

## Identification and reporting of malpractice

### Escalating suspected malpractice issues

- Once suspected malpractice is identified, any member of staff at the centre can report it using the appropriate channels (SMPP 4.3)

All incidences of malpractice are reported to the EO. This includes during external examinations and during the completion of NEA or PSA's. The EO immediately notifies the Head of Centre. Both will then carry out a formal investigation, ensuring that Awarding Bodies are notified via the correct methods. Invigilation logs are kept during all external examinations, all concerns within the exam room (no matter how minor) are logged and reported to the EO at the end of the examination. The EO or Head of Centre will be summoned to the examination room to deal with any incidence of malpractice which cannot wait. In the event of the EO or Head of Centre being unavailable (in accordance with the Contingency Plan) the member of SLT with oversight for examinations, will be notified.

### Reporting suspected malpractice to the Awarding Body

- The Head of Centre will notify the appropriate Awarding Body immediately of all alleged, suspected or actual incidents of malpractice, using the appropriate forms, and will conduct any investigation and gathering of information in accordance with the requirements of the JCQ document **Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures** (SMPP 4.1.3)
- The Head of Centre will ensure that, where a candidate is a child or an adult at risk and is the subject of a malpractice investigation, the candidate's parent/carer/ appropriate adult is kept informed of the progress of the investigation (SMPP 4.1.3)
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of candidate malpractice. Form JCQ/M2 will be used to notify an awarding body of an incident of suspected staff malpractice/maladministration (SMPP 4.4, 4.6)

- Candidate malpractice offences relating to the content of work (i.e. inappropriate/offensive content, copying/collusion, plagiarism (including AI misuse) and/or false declaration of authentication) which are discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment component prior to the candidate signing the declaration of authentication, do not need to be reported to the awarding body. Instead, they will be dealt with in accordance with the centre's internal procedures.

Malpractice by a candidate discovered in a controlled assessment, coursework or non-examination assessment where the offence does not relate to the content of candidates' work (e.g. possession of unauthorised materials, breach of assessment conditions) or where a candidate has signed the declaration of authentication, must be reported using a JCQ M1 to the relevant awarding body. If, at the time of the malpractice, there is no entry for that candidate (who the centre intended to enter), the centre is required to submit an entry by the required entry deadline. (SMPP 4.5)

- If, in the view of the investigator, there is sufficient evidence that an individual may have committed malpractice, that individual (the candidate or the member of staff) will be informed of all the required information and the accused individual informed of their rights and responsibilities (SMPP 5.33-3.4)
- Once the information gathering has concluded, the head of centre (or other appointed information-gatherer) will submit a written report to the relevant awarding body summarising the information obtained and actions taken, accompanied by the information obtained during the course of their enquiries (5.35)
- Form JCQ/M1 will be used when reporting candidate cases; for centre staff, form JCQ/M3 will be used (SMPP 5.37)
- The Awarding body will decide on the basis of the report, and any supporting documentation, whether there is evidence of malpractice and if any further investigation is required. The head of centre will be informed accordingly (SMPP 5.40)

### **Communicating malpractice decisions**

Once a decision has been made, it will be communicated in writing to the Head of Centre as soon as possible. The Head of Centre will communicate the decision to the individuals concerned and pass on details of any sanctions and action in cases where this is indicated. The Head of Centre will also inform the individuals if they have the right to appeal. (SMPP 11.1)

### **Appeals against decisions made in cases of malpractice**

St Richard's Catholic College will:

- Provide the individual with information on the process and timeframe for submitting an appeal, where relevant
- Refer to further information and follow the process provided in the JCQ publication **A guide to the Awarding Bodies' appeals processes**