



BEACONSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Emergency Evacuation Policy (Exams)

Date last reviewed: September 2025

Next Review Date: September 2026

For Review by: Headteacher

Aim:

This policy details how the centre 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.

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

Senior leadership team

- 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

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 (*Candidate 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 procedures for each exam room
- Provides a standard invigilator announcement for each exam which includes appropriate information for candidates regarding what will happen if the fire alarm sounds
- Provides an exam room incident log in each exam room
- 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
- 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

Invigilators

- By attending training, 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 each exam room

- Confirm with the exams officer, where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate they are invigilating

Other relevant centre staff

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

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
Stop the candidates from writing and remind students they are under exam conditions and must not talk. Advise students to leave all question papers and scripts in the exam room and leave in silence.
Make a note of time of interruption.
Collect the attendance register (in order to ensure all candidates are present) and evacuate the examination room by the nearest exit in line with the instructions given by the appropriate authority
Accompany students to evacuation assembly point (back of field away from remainder of school), supervise closely to ensure there is no discussion.
Make sure that 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.
When given the “all clear”, return candidates to exam room and allow time to settle down. Reassure candidates they are allowed the full working time set for the examination. Record new “end time” on whiteboard.
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 to allow Examinations Officer to inform the relevant awarding body