



JAMES MARKS ACADEMY

ALTERNATIVE ROOMING ARRANGEMENTS POLICY 2025-26

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that alternative rooming arrangements at James Marks Academy are awarded and managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

References in this policy to AARA and ICE refer to the JCQ documents Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments and Instructions for conducting examinations.

Approved/Agreed by			
Head of Centre Scott Martin	SLT Responsible Mark Reynolds	Exams Officer Alison Patel	SENDCo Ashley Purser
Centre number	17322		
Date of next review	October 2026		

Introduction

Alternative rooming arrangements (for example, a room for a smaller group* of candidates with similar needs) is an available access arrangement as defined in the JCQ regulations. This is an arrangement where a candidate with an established difficulty may be eligible to take their examinations in a smaller environment away from the main examination room.

*Due to the nature of the school, a special school for pupils with complex needs, which has typically smaller group sizes than other schools. It is envisioned that the majority of pupils will sit their examinations in similar group sizes as they access their learning.

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the criteria when these arrangements may be considered and granted for a candidate at James Mark Academy in compliance with the regulations.

Decisions on the awarding of the arrangement

At James Mark Academy decisions on the awarding of alternative rooming are made by:
Scott Martin – Head of Centre
Mark Reynolds – Senior Leader with oversight of exams)
Ashley Purser – SENDCo

Decisions are based on:

- Whether the candidate has a substantial and long-term impairment which has an adverse effect (AARA 5.16)
- The candidate's normal way of working within the centre (AARA 5.16)
- Ensuring the proposed arrangement does not unfairly disadvantage or advantage the candidate (AARA 4.2.1)

In accordance with the regulations: A centre must make decisions on appropriate access arrangements for their candidates. Although professionals from other organisations may give advice, they cannot make the decision for the centre. They will not have a working knowledge of an individual candidate's needs and how their difficulties impact in the classroom and/or in timed assessments. It is the responsibility of the SENDCo to make appropriate and informed decisions based on the JCQ regulations.

- Nervousness, low level anxiety or being worried about examinations is not sufficient grounds for separate invigilation within the centre.

The use of an alternative room with one-to-one invigilation will only apply where the candidate has a serious medical condition, such as frequent seizures, Tourette's or significant behavioural issues which would disturb other candidates in the examination room (AARA 5.16).

Criteria for the awarding of the arrangement

Alternative rooming arrangements will be considered where the arrangement would prevent a candidate from being placed at a substantial disadvantage and where the following conditions are met:

- The candidate has an established difficulty as defined in section 5.16 of the JCQ's Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments document (ICE 14.18)
- The candidate's disability is established within the centre and known to relevant staff or a senior member of staff with pastoral responsibilities (AARA 5.16)
- Alternative rooming arrangements reflects the candidate's normal and current way of working in internal tests and mock examinations (AARA 5.16)
- Where a candidate sits their examinations in a smaller environment away from the main examination room, the regulations and guidance within the JCQ document

Instructions for conducting examinations will be adhered to, particularly in relation to accommodation and invigilation arrangements (ICE 14.18)

Other rooming arrangements

At James Mark Academy arrangements for seating candidates in rooms separate to the main cohort will only be used in exceptional circumstances.

The exceptional circumstances are 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.