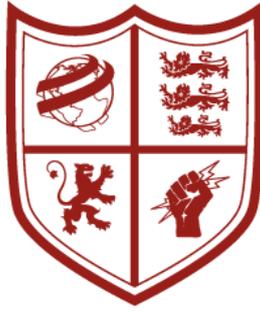


Stretford
Grammar School
Aspirat primo fortuna labori

Word Processor Policy

Ratified by Governors: 2020



Word Processor Policy

Member of staff with overall responsibility: Examinations Officer

Governing Body Sub-Committee with reviewing responsibility: Standards and Curriculum

This policy is reviewed and updated annually on the publication of updated JCQ regulations and guidance on access arrangements and instructions for conducting exams.

References in this policy to AA and ICE relate to/are directly taken from the [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2020-2021](#) and [Instructions for Conducting Examinations 2020-2021](#) publications.

Introduction

The use of a word processor in exams and assessments is an available access arrangement. It must be the normal way of working and school provides the evidence.

(AA 4.2.1)

The purpose of an access arrangement is to ensure, where possible, that barriers to assessment are removed for a disabled candidate preventing him/her 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.

(AA 4.2.2)

Although access arrangements are intended to allow access to assessments, they cannot be granted where they will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question.

(AA 4.2.3)

Candidates may not require the same access arrangements in each specification. Subjects and their methods of assessments may vary, leading to different demands of the candidate. SENCOs should consider the need for access arrangements on a subject-by-subject basis.

Purpose of the policy

This policy details how Stretford Grammar School complies with AA (chapter 4) Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties and (chapter 5.8) Word processor when awarding and allocating a candidate the use of word processor in his/her exams.

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

The use of a word processor

The centre will

- allocate the use of a word processor to a candidate 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 if it is appropriate to their needs

Examples of particular types of students that Stretford Grammar School considers would benefit from the use of a word processor are those with:

- a learning difficulty which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a student's ability to write legibly;
- a medical condition;
- a physical disability;
- a sensory impairment;
- planning and organisational problems when writing by hand;
- poor handwriting (AA 5.8.4)

The centre will

- 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)
- consider the needs of the candidate at the start of the candidate's course leading to a qualification based on evidence gathered that firmly establishes the candidate's needs and 'normal way of working' in the classroom, internal tests/exams, mock exams etc. and confirm arrangements in place before the candidate takes an exam or assessment (AA 4.2.4)
- provide access to word processors to candidates in non-examination assessment components as standard practice unless prohibited by the specification (AA 5.8.2)

The centre will not

- simply grant the use of a word processor to a candidate because he/she prefers to type rather than write or can work faster on a keyboard, or because he/she uses a laptop at home (AA 5.8.4)

Exceptions

The only exception 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 a subject within the curriculum is delivered electronically and the centre provides word processors to all candidates (AA 5.8.4)

Centre specific processes

1. Principles for using a word processor in tests, assessments and examinations at Stretford Grammar School

- Students with access to word processors at Stretford Grammar School (S.G.S.) are allowed to do so in order to remove barriers for disabled students which prevent them from being placed at a substantial disadvantage as a consequence of persistent and significant difficulties.
- The use of word processors is only permitted whilst ensuring that the integrity of the assessment is maintained, at the same time as providing access to assessments for a disabled student.
- The use of a word processor is not granted where it will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question.
- Students may not require the use of a word processor in each specification. As subjects and their methods of assessments may vary, leading to different demands of our students, the need for the use of a word processor is considered on a subject-by-subject basis.
- The use of a word processor is agreed /processed at the start of the course or as soon as an issue is recognised. Students are subsequently aware that they will have the use of a word processor for examinations and controlled assessments/coursework.
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- The use of a word processor for students is only granted if it reflects the support given to the student as their 'normal way of working', which is defined as support:
 - in the classroom;
 - working in small groups for reading and/or writing;
 - literacy support lessons;
 - literacy intervention strategies;
 - in internal school tests and mock examinations.

2. Use of a word processor in tests, assessments and examinations at Stretford Grammar School

- The use of a word processor will be granted to a student on a temporary basis as a consequence of a temporary injury.

- To comply with ICE 14, the centre will provide a word processor with the spelling and grammar check facility/predictive text disabled (switched off) (ICE 14.20).
- We will only grant the use of a word processor to a student where it is their normal way of working within the centre.
- We will only grant the use of a word processor to a student if it is appropriate to their needs as identified by the SENCO following advice. For example, the quality of language significantly improves as a result of using a word processor due to problems with planning and organisation when writing by hand.
- We will provide access to word processors to students in controlled assessments or coursework components as standard practice unless prohibited by the specification.
- Students will be permitted to use a word processor in an examination to type a response to those questions which require an extended answer and students will be allowed to handwrite shorter answers within the same examination. In this situation a candidate may submit an answer paper where short responses are written on the paper and longer essay type answers are word processed.
- In all cases we will ensure that a word processor cover sheet (Form 4) is completed and securely attached to each student's typed script.
- We will not simply grant the use of a word processor to a student because:
 - he /she prefers to type rather than write; or
 - he /she can work faster on a keyboard; or
 - he /she uses a laptop at home.

3. Word Processor and their programmes in tests, assessments and examinations at Stretford Grammar School

- Word processors are used as a type-writer, not as a database, although standard formatting software is acceptable.
- Word processors and any portable storage medium provided by the S.E.N. department for examination are to have been cleared by the S.E.N. department of any previously stored data.
- Word processors used in examinations are to be in good working order at the time of the examination.
- Word processors are to be accommodated in such a way that other students are not disturbed and cannot read the screen.
- Where a student using a word processor is accommodated separately, a separate invigilator is to be used.
- Word processors are to be either connected to a printer so that a script can be printed off, or have the facility to print from a portable storage medium.
- Documents are to be printed as soon as possible after the examination is over and students are to be present to verify that the work printed is their own.

- Word processed scripts are to be attached to any answer booklet which contains some of the answers.
- If scripts are not produced under secure conditions we are aware that they may be refused by the Awarding Body.
- Word processors are not to be used to perform skills which are being assessed.
- Word processors are not to be connected to an intranet or any other means of communication.
- Students are not to be given access to other applications such as a calculator (where prohibited in the examination), spreadsheets etc. when using a word processor.
- Graphic packages or computer aided design software is not to be included on a word processor unless permission has been given to use these.
- Predictive text software or an automatic spelling and grammar check is to be disabled unless the student has been permitted a scribe or is using voice recognition technology (the script must have a scribe cover sheet attached), or the Awarding Body's specification permits the use of automatic spell checking.
- Voice recognition technology is not to be included on word processors unless the student has permission to use a scribe or relevant software.
- Word processors are not to be used on the student's behalf by a third party unless the student has permission to use a scribe.

4. Laptops, Tablets and Word Processors in tests, assessments and examinations at Stretford Grammar School

- Tablets used during examinations/assessments are designed to run for a long period of time once fully charged and are 'free-standing'.
- The battery capacity of all laptops and/or tablets is to be checked before the student's examination(s) and the battery sufficiently charged for the entire duration of the examination (ICE 14.21).
- Students with fully charged laptops or tablets are to be seated within the main examination hall without the need for separate invigilation and power points.
- Students are to be reminded that their centre number, candidate number and the unit/component code must appear on each page as a header or footer (ICE 14.22).
- Students using Notepad or Wordpad software (which do not allow for the insertion of a header or footer) are to be instructed to handwrite their details as a header or footer once they have finished the examination and printed off their typed script. They are to be supervised to ensure that they are solely performing this task and not re-reading their answers or amending their work in any way.
- Each page is to be appropriately numbered (ICE 14.23).
- Students are to be instructed to use a minimum 12pt font and double spacing (ICE 14.24).
- A Word Processor cover sheet (Form 4) must be included with the typed script.

- Invigilators are to remind students to save their work at regular intervals.

The centre will ensure the word processor

- 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 type-writer, 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 be used on the candidate's behalf by a third party unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe

Portable storage medium

The centre 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 is over

The centre will ensure

- 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 his or her own
- a word processed script is attached to any answer booklet which contains some of the answers
- a word processor cover sheet (Form 4) is completed and included with the candidate's typed script (according to the relevant awarding body's instructions)