

Exams Archiving Policy

Purbeck School

Exams Archiving Policy

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Key staff involved in the policy

Role	**Name**
Head of centre	Adam Darley
Senior leader(s)	Carl Morris
Exams Manager	Chris Daws
SENCo (or equivalent role)	Rebecca Alls
IT manager	Paula Dale
Finance manager	Not applicable
Head(s) of department	Not applicable
Other staff (if applicable)	Not applicable

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that records are archived/retained in accordance with current requirements and reflects centre practice.

References in this policy to GR, ICE, SC and PRS refer to the JCQ documents **General Regulations for Approved Centres**, **Instructions for conducting examinations**, **A guide to the special consideration process** and **Post-Results Services**.

Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- identify exams-related information/records held by the exams office
- identify the retention period
- determine the action required at the end of the retention period and the method of disposal
- inform or supplement the centre-wide records management policy/data retention policy

Where a particular record or information type is not held in, or not applicable to Purbeck School, this is indicated.

1. Access arrangements information

Record(s) description

Any hard copy information kept by the exams officer relating to an access arrangement candidate.

Retention information/period

Records returned to SENCO as records owner at end of the candidate's final exam series.

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

2. Alternative site arrangements

Record(s) description

Any hard copy information generated on an alternative site arrangement. Notifications submitted online via CAP.

Retention information/period

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series.

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

3. Attendance register copies

Record(s) description

Attendance register copies

Retention information/period

Records are kept in accordance with the requirements of ICE, sections 12, 22 (...keep signed records of the seating plan, the invigilation arrangements and the centre's copies of the attendance registers for each examination. The awarding bodies may need to refer to these records. The centre must keep them until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later.

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

4. Awarding body exams administration information

Record(s) description

Any hard copy publications provided by awarding bodies.

Retention information/period

Records retained until the current academic year update is provided.

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

5. Candidates' scripts

Record(s) description

Any unwanted copies of scripts returned to the centre through the Access to Scripts (ATS) service.

Retention information/period

To be retained securely until the awarding body's earliest date for confidential disposal of unwanted scripts in accordance with the requirements of GR, section 3.15 (… ensure that when scripts that have been returned under access to scripts arrangements are no longer required, they are disposed of in a confidential manner, but no earlier than the dates specified by the awarding bodies.

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

6. Candidates' work

Record(s) description

Non-examination assessment work returned to the centre by the awarding body at the end of the moderation period.

Retention information/period

Records logged on return to the centre and immediately returned to subject staff as records owner. To be stored safely and securely along with work that did not form part of the moderation sample (including materials stored electronically) in accordance with the requirements of GR, section 3.15 (…store safely and securely all non-examination assessments, including controlled assessments, coursework or portfolios, retained in, or returned to, the centre until the deadline for a review of moderation has passed or until a review of moderation, an appeal or a malpractice investigation has been completed, whichever is later. This includes materials stored electronically.

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Returned to candidates or safe disposal

7. Centre consortium arrangements for centre assessed work

Record(s) description

Not applicable

Retention information/period

Not applicable

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Not applicable

8. Certificates

Record(s) description

Candidate certificates issued by awarding bodies.

Retention information/period

Records retained in accordance with the requirements of GR, section 5.14 (…retain all unclaimed certificates under secure conditions for a minimum of 12 months from the date of issue…).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Certificates not collected within one year are securely retained with pupils other records for five years.

9. Certificate destruction information

Record(s) description

A record of unclaimed certificates that have been destroyed.

Retention information/period

Records retained in accordance with the requirements of GR, section 5.14 (... destroy any unclaimed certificates after retaining them for a minimum of 12 months. They must be destroyed in a confidential manner. Centres that do not have a means of destroying certificates confidentially may return them to the respective awarding body. A record of certificates that have been destroyed should be retained for four years from their date of destruction. However, candidates should be informed that some awarding bodies do not offer a replacement certificate service. In such circumstances the awarding body will issue a Certifying Statement of Results... (Where an awarding body issues a replacement certificate, or a Certifying Statement of Results, this will provide an accurate and complete record of results for all qualifications covered by the original certificate... return any certificates requested by the awarding bodies. Certificates always remain the property of the awarding bodies.).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential destruction

10. Certificate issue information

Record(s) description

A record of certificates that have been issued

Retention information/period

Records retained in accordance with the requirements of GR, section 5.14 (...obtain and maintain accurate candidate contact information to ensure the correct and secure despatch of certificates - ...distribute certificates to all candidates without delay and regardless of any disputes (such as non-payment of fees). Certificates must not be withheld without prior permission from an awarding body which will only be given in very exceptional circumstances. A record should be kept of the certificates that are issued...).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Record will be kept along with students other school records, until they are confidentially destroyed.

11. Confidential materials: initial point of delivery logs

Record(s) description

Logs recording awarding body confidential exam materials received by an authorised member of staff at the initial point of delivery.

Retention information/period

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

12. Confidential materials: receipt, secure movement, checking and secure storage logs

Record(s) description

Logs recording the secure movement of awarding body confidential exam materials packages by an authorised member of staff to the secure room for transferal to the centre's secure storage facility.

Retention information/period

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as

good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

13. Conflicts of interest records

Record(s) description

Records demonstrating the management of conflicts of interest

Retention information/period

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

14. Dispatch logs

Record(s) description

Proof of dispatch of exam script packages to awarding body examiners covered by the DfE (Standards & Testing Agency) yellow label service (England only).

Retention information/period

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

15. Entry information

Record(s) description

Any hard copy information relating to candidates' entries.

Retention information/period

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

16. Exam question papers

Record(s) description

Question papers for timetabled written exams

Retention information/period

Records retained in accordance with the requirements of ICE, section 31 (Releasing question papers) and GR, section 6.13 (...For confidentiality purposes question papers must not be released to centre personnel for use in accordance with the above licence until after the awarding body's published finishing time for the examination or, in the case of a timetable variation, until all candidates within the centre have completed the examination. This does not restrict access to question papers by authorised centre personnel for the purpose of conducting examinations...).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Issued to subject staff

17. Exam room checklists

Record(s) description

Checklists confirming exam room conditions and invigilation arrangements for each exam session.

Retention information/period

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

18. Exam room incident logs

Record(s) description

Logs recording any incidents or irregularities in exam rooms for each exam session.

Retention information/period

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

19. Exam stationery

Record(s) description

Awarding body exam stationery provided solely for the purpose of external exams.

Retention information/period

Records retained in accordance with the requirements of ICE, section 30 (...return unused stationery to the secure storage facility or secure room until needed for a future examination. Surplus stationery must not be used for internal school tests, mock examinations and non-examination assessments... destroy confidentially any out-of-date stationery.).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential destruction

20. Examiner reports

Record(s) description

Examiner reports

Retention information/period

Records immediately provided to head of department as records owner.

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

21. Finance information

Record(s) description

Copy invoices for exams-related fees.

Retention information/period

Records returned to Finance department as records owner at the end of the academic year.

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

22. Handling secure electronic materials logs

Record(s) description

Logs recording the arrangements applied when handling secure electronic materials provided to the centre and accessed by the exams officer (or other authorised member of centre staff).

Retention information/period

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

23. Invigilation arrangements

Record(s) description

Checklists confirming exam room conditions and invigilation arrangements for each exam session.

Retention information/period

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

24. Invigilator and facilitator training records

Record(s) description

Invigilator and facilitator training records

Retention information/period

Records retained in accordance with the requirements of ICE, section 12 (A record of the content of the training given to invigilators and those facilitating an access arrangement for a candidate under examination conditions must be available for inspection and retained on file until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later. A record of the content of the training given to invigilators and those facilitating an access arrangement for a candidate under examination conditions must be available for inspection and retained on file until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later.).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

25. Moderator reports

Record(s) description

Moderator reports

Retention information/period

Records immediately provided to head of department as records owner.

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

26. Moderation return logs

Record(s) description

Logs recording the return of candidates' work to the centre by the awarding body at the end of the moderation period.

Retention information/period

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

27. Overnight supervision information

Record(s) description

Where specific retention information is not provided by JCQ or other authorised organisation, it is suggested as good practice that exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Retention information/period

Records retained in accordance with the requirements of ICE, section 8 (...keep all completed forms available for inspection until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later. Forms may be stored electronically or in hard copy paper format and must not be sent to an awarding body, unless specifically requested...).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

28. Post-results services: confirmation of candidate consent information

Record(s) description

Hard copy or email record of required candidate consent.

Retention information/period

Records retained in accordance with the requirements of PRS, section 4 plus appendix A and B (Consent forms or emails from candidates must be retained by the centre and kept for at least six months following the outcome of the clerical re-check or review of marking or any subsequent appeal. The awarding bodies reserve the right to inspect such documentation. This form should be retained on the centre's files for at least six months following the outcome of the clerical re-check, review of marking or any subsequent appeal. This form should be retained on the centre's files for at least six months.).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

29. Post-results services: request/outcome information

Record(s) description

Any hard copy information relating to a post-results service request (RoRs, appeals, ATS) submitted to an awarding body for a candidate and outcome information from the awarding body.

Retention information/period

Exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

30. Post-results services: tracking logs

Record(s) description

Logs tracking to resolution all post-results service requests submitted to awarding bodies.

Retention information/period

Exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

31. Private candidate information

Record(s) description

Any hard copy information relating to private candidates' entries.

Retention information/period

Exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

32. Proof of postage - candidates' work

Record(s) description

Proof of postage/dispatch of candidates' scripts to awarding body examiners/markers. Proof of postage/dispatch of sample of candidates' work submitted to awarding body moderators.

Retention information/period

Records (proof of postage/dispatch of candidates' scripts to awarding body examiners/markers) retained in accordance with the requirements of ICE, section 29 (Centres not involved in the secure despatch of exam scripts service… must obtain proof of postage/despatch for each packet of scripts, which must be retained on the centre's files until the results are published, in case of loss or damage. (Proof of postage will provide evidence that the candidates' scripts have left the centre. This will indicate that the scripts were written at the appointed time and that, should the scripts not be received by the awarding body/examiner, then special consideration may be possible.)…).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

33. Resilience arrangements: Evidence of candidate performance

Record(s) description

Retention information/period

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

34. Resolving timetable clashes

Record(s) description

Any hard copy information relating to the resolution of a candidate's clash of timetabled exam papers.

Retention information/period

Exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

35. Results information

Record(s) description

Broadsheets of public examination results summarising candidate final grades by subject by exam series.

Retention information/period

Records for current year plus previous 6 years retained as a minimum.

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

36. Seating plans

Record(s) description

Plans showing the seating arrangements of all candidates for every exam taken.

Retention information/period

Records retained in accordance with the requirements of ICE, section 12 (…keep signed records of the seating plan, the invigilation arrangements and the centre's copies of the attendance registers for each examination. The awarding bodies may need to refer to these records. The centre must keep them until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later.).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

37. Second pair of eyes check records/forms

Record(s) description

Records of the check that must take place by a second person (additional to the person removing question paper packets from secure storage) immediately before a question paper packet is opened.

Retention information/period

Exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

38. Special consideration information

Record(s) description

Any hard copy information relating to a special consideration application which has been submitted to an awarding body for a candidate and appropriate evidence signed by a senior leader.

Retention information/period

Records retained in accordance with the requirements of SC, section 6 (All applications must be supported by appropriate evidence signed by a member of the senior leadership team. The centre must retain this evidence until after the publication of results.)

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

39. Suspected malpractice reports/outcomes

Record(s) description

Any hard copy information relating to a suspected or actual malpractice investigation/report submitted to an awarding body and outcome information from the awarding body.

Retention information/period

Exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

40. Transferred candidate arrangements

Record(s) description

Any hard copy information relating to a transferred candidate arrangement. Applications submitted online via CAP.

Retention information/period

Exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

41. Very late arrival reports/outcomes

Record(s) description

Any hard copy information relating to a candidate arriving very late to an exam. Reports submitted online via CAP.

Retention information/period

Exams-related information that is held in the centre is retained at the very least until after the deadline for reviews of results or other results enquiries (or the resolution of any outstanding reviews/appeals or malpractice investigations) for the relevant exams series).

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Confidential disposal

42a. Any other records/documentation/materials

Record(s) description

Not applicable

Retention information/period

Not applicable

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Not applicable

42b. Any other records/documentation/materials

Record(s) description

Not applicable

Retention information/period

Not applicable

Action at the end of retention period (method of disposal)

Not applicable

Changes effective from 1 September 2026

In terms of JCQ regulations (effective from 1 September 2026), no changes are applicable to this policy.

Some insert field prompts have been slightly amended to reflect wording changes in ICE (5.2,12.5,12.8, 31)

Centre-specific changes

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