

Word Processor Policy (exams)

2017/18

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Approved/reviewed by

Will Harvey – Assistant Headteacher
(Vale Academy Trust)

Date of next review Sept 2018

Portway • Wantage • Oxfordshire OX12 9BY.

Headteacher: **Jo Halliday BSc Hons Dip M NPQH**

Telephone: 01235 225700 • Email: enquiries@kaacademy.org • www.kaacademy.org



Key staff involved in awarding and allocating word processors for exams

Role	Name(s)
SLT member(s)	Will Harvey and Chris Boyle
Exams officer	Sally Edwards

Portway • Wantage • Oxfordshire OX12 9BY.

Headteacher: **Jo Halliday BSc Hons Dip M NPQH**

Telephone: 01235 225700 • Email: enquiries@kaacademy.org • www.kaacademy.org



KING ALFRED'S ACADEMY

Contents

Key staff involved in awarding and allocating word processors for exams	2
Introduction	4
Purpose of the policy	4
Principles for using a word processor	4
The use of a word processor	5
Word processors and their programmes.....	6
Laptops and tablets	7
Accommodating word processors in examinations	8
Appendix 1	9
The criteria [King Alfred's Academy] uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations	9

Portway • Wantage • Oxfordshire OX12 9BY.

Headteacher: **Jo Halliday BSc Hons Dip M NPQH**

Telephone: 01235 225700 • Email: enquiries@kaacademy.org • www.kaacademy.org



KING ALFRED'S ACADEMY

Introduction

This policy on the use of word processors in examinations and assessments is reviewed and updated annually, on the publication of updated JCQ regulations and guidance contained in the publications [Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments](#) and [Instructions for conducting examinations](#).

References to 'AA' relate to JCQ *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments 2017-2018* and ICE to JCQ *Instructions for conducting examinations 2017-2018*.

Purpose of the policy

This policy details how the centre manages and administers the use of word processors (including laptops and tablets) in examinations and assessments.

Principles for using a word processor

King Alfred's Academy complies with AA chapter 4 *Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties* regulations and guidance as follows:

(AA 4.2.1)

- ▶ Candidates with access to word processors are allowed to do so in order to remove barriers for disabled candidates 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 candidate

(AA 4.2.2)

- ▶ The use of a word processor is not granted where it will compromise the assessment objectives of the specification in question

(AA 4.2.3)

- ▶ Candidates 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 candidates, the need for the use of a word processor is considered on a subject-by-subject basis

(AA 4.2.4)

- ▶ The use of a word processor is normally considered and agreed where appropriate at the start of the course providing the centre has firmly established a picture of need and normal way of working for a candidate.

Portway • Wantage • Oxfordshire OX12 9BY.

Headteacher: **Jo Halliday BSc Hons Dip M NPQH**

Telephone: 01235 225700 • Email: enquiries@kaacademy.org • www.kaacademy.org



- ▶ Candidates are made aware when they will have the use of a word processor for timetabled examinations and non-examination assessments

(AA 4.2.5)

- ▶ The use of a word processor for candidates is only granted if it reflects the support given to the candidate as their 'normal way of working', which is defined as support:
 - ▶ in the classroom (where appropriate); or
 - ▶ working in small groups for reading and/or writing; or
 - ▶ literacy support lessons; or
 - ▶ literacy intervention strategies; and/or
 - ▶ in internal school tests/examinations
 - ▶ mock examinations

The only exceptions to the above would be 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.

The use of a word processor

King Alfred's Academy complies with AA chapter 5 *Access arrangements available* as follows:

(AA 5.8.1)

- ▶ Provides a word processor with the spelling and grammar check facility/predictive text disabled (switched off)
 - ▶ Only grants the use of a word processor to a candidate where it is their normal way of working (see 4.2.5 above) within the centre
 - ▶ Only grants the use of a word processor to a candidate if it is appropriate to their needs (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)
- (The above also extends to the use of electronic brailers and tablets)

(AA 5.8.2)

- ▶ Provides access to word processors to candidates in non-examination assessment components as standard practice unless prohibited by the specification

(AA 5.8.3)

- ▶ Allows candidates to use a word processor in an examination to type certain questions, i.e. those requiring extended writing, and handwrite shorter answers

Portway • Wantage • Oxfordshire OX12 9BY.

Headteacher: **Jo Halliday BSc Hons Dip M NPQH**

Telephone: 01235 225700 • Email: enquiries@kaacademy.org • www.kaacademy.org



KING ALFRED'S ACADEMY

- ▶ Are also aware that examinations which have a significant amount of writing, as well as those that place a greater demand on the need to organise thought and plan extended answers, are those where candidates will frequently need to type. Examinations which require more simplistic answers are often easier to handwrite within the answer booklet. The candidate avoids the difficulty of visually tracking between the question paper and screen

(AA 5.8.4)

- ▶ In all cases, ensures that a word processor cover sheet (Form 4) is completed and included with each candidate's typed script (according to the instructions issued by the individual awarding body)
- ▶ Does 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

Centre specific processes

- ▶ At King Alfred's Academy the SENCO assesses all students for suitability of need when authorising the use of a word processor as 'normal way of working' in the classroom and for Non-Examination Assessments and all examinations. A Form 8 and centre delegated form is kept for each student with this access arrangement (and a signed Data Protection form). This may exclude emergency examination allocation of a word processor, depending on the student's situation.

Word processors and their programmes

King Alfred's Academy complies with ICE 8.8 *Word processors* instructions by ensuring:

- ▶ word processors are used as a type-writer, not as a database, although standard formatting software is acceptable
- ▶ word processors have been cleared of any previously stored data, as must any portable storage medium used
- ▶ an unauthorised memory stick is not permitted for use by a candidate
- ▶ where required, candidates are provided with a memory stick, which has been cleared of any previously stored data, by a nominated member of centre staff
- ▶ word processors are in good working order at the time of the examination
- ▶ word processors are accommodated in such a way that other candidates are not disturbed and cannot read the screen
- ▶ where a candidate using a word processor is accommodated separately, a separate invigilator is used
- ▶ word processors are 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 printed after the examination is over
- ▶ candidates are present to verify that the work printed is their own

Portway • Wantage • Oxfordshire OX12 9BY.

Headteacher: **Jo Halliday BSc Hons Dip M NPQH**

Telephone: 01235 225700 • Email: enquiries@kaacademy.org • www.kaacademy.org



- ▶ word processed scripts are inserted in/attached to any answer booklet which contains some of the answers (and according to instructions issued by the individual awarding body)
- ▶ word processors are used to produce scripts under secure conditions, and if they are not then the centre is aware that they may be refused by the awarding body
- ▶ word processors are not used to perform skills which are being assessed
- ▶ word processors are not connected to an intranet or any other means of communication.
- ▶ candidates are not 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 included on a word processor unless permission has been given to use these
- ▶ predictive text software or an automatic spelling and grammar check is disabled unless the candidate has been permitted a scribe or is using voice recognition technology (the script must have a completed scribe cover sheet included), or the awarding body's specification permits the use of automatic spell checking
- ▶ voice recognition technology is not included on word processors unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe or relevant software
- ▶ word processors are not used on the candidate's behalf by a third party unless the candidate has permission to use a scribe

Centre specific processes

- ▶ King Alfred's Exams office have word processors that are not connected to the internet and are loaded with Wordpad (spelling and predictive text disabled). In the case of a word processor failure the Exams Manager may have to borrow a word processor from the IT team.

Laptops and tablets

King Alfred's Academy further complies with ICE 8.8 instructions by ensuring:

- ▶ candidates are reminded that their centre number, candidate number and the unit/component code must appear on each page as a header or footer
- ▶ candidates using Notepad or Wordpad software (which do not allow for the insertion of a header or footer) are instructed to handwrite their details as a header or footer once they have finished the examination and printed off their typed script; candidates are also supervised to ensure that they are solely performing this task and not re-reading their answers or amending their work in any way
- ▶ candidates are instructed to appropriately number each page
- ▶ candidates are instructed to use a minimum 12pt font and double spacing
- ▶ invigilators remind candidates to save their work at regular intervals
- ▶ candidates are present at the end of the examination when their script is printed off so they can verify that the work printed is their own

Portway • Wantage • Oxfordshire OX12 9BY.

Headteacher: **Jo Halliday BSc Hons Dip M NPQH**

Telephone: 01235 225700 • Email: enquiries@kaacademy.org • www.kaacademy.org



Accommodating word processors in examinations

Candidates using word processors (including laptops or tablets) are internally accommodated in the following manner:

- ▶ Students will be accommodated in examination rooming that has power sockets.

Invigilation arrangements relating to the use of word processors include the following:

- ▶ Invigilators are correctly trained in the use of exam laptops and software
- ▶ At the end of an exam, invigilators will accompany laptop users to the exams office in order for scripts to be printed off.
- ▶ Invigilators will complete the appropriate word processing cover sheet

Other arrangements relating to the use of word processors include:

- ▶ In the event of technical difficulties, the IT department will provide the appropriate support.

Portway • Wantage • Oxfordshire OX12 9BY.

Headteacher: **Jo Halliday BSc Hons Dip M NPQH**

Telephone: 01235 225700 • Email: enquiries@kaacademy.org • www.kaacademy.org



KING ALFRED'S ACADEMY

The criteria King Alfred's Academy uses to award and allocate word processors for examinations

"A laptop will not be granted to a candidate simply because a pupil wishes to type rather than write in examinations or can work faster on a keyboard, or because he/she uses a laptop at home.

King Alfred's Academy will provide a laptop computer (with spelling and grammar check facility disabled) to pupils for use in their examinations where it is their **normal** way of working.

Pupils will only be allocated laptops when the quality of language **significantly** improves as a result of using a laptop due to problems with planning and organisation when writing by hand.

It is permissible for a candidate using a laptop in an examination to type certain answers, i.e. those requiring extended writing, and handwrite shorter answers.

For the regulations on the use of word processors in written examinations, please refer the King Alfred's Academy's word processing policy for exams as well as section 8.8, page 25 of the JCQ publication Instructions For conducting Examinations (commonly known as the JCQ "ICE" booklet).

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/ice---instructions-for-conducting-examinations>

Typically, following an assessment by the SEN department, laptops may be allocated to pupils who have:

- ▶ a learning difficulty which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to write legibly
- ▶ a medical condition
- ▶ a physical disability
- ▶ a sensory impairment
- ▶ planning and organisational problems when writing by hand
- ▶ poor handwriting

This list is not exhaustive, and exceptions will be made in emergency situations.

Statement produced by: **Will Harvey, Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion)**

Statement date: 20/02/2018

Portway • Wantage • Oxfordshire OX12 9BY.

Headteacher: **Jo Halliday BSc Hons Dip M NPQH**

Telephone: 01235 225700 • Email: enquiries@kaacademy.org • www.kaacademy.org

