

Assessment of students with special educational needs prior to external examinations

Sheldon School follows the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) exam regulations regarding the assessment of students with special educational needs prior to examinations.

‘Children have “special educational needs” as defined in the SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. The Equality Act 2010 definition of disability includes substantial and long-term sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, mental health issues and long-term conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.’ (JCQ 2017)

Examinations Access Arrangements (EAA)

A Specialist Teacher will assess students for EAA in years 9 and 10 with the aim of supporting them as they prepare for external examinations.

In accordance with exam regulations we will only process applications for students who have a history of need and have persistent and significant difficulties. These students will have a diagnosed special educational need or be disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010.

Requests for assessment must come directly from class teachers. Evidence must be provided by teachers of a student’s existing difficulties and their substantial effect on teaching and learning. Teachers must show the need for assessment is based on the student’s normal way of working. JCQ stipulate that the need for extra time must be a direct consequence of a pupil’s disability. Any deviation from this would constitute malpractice.

Examples of Exam Access Arrangements:

- Extra time
- Reader
- Scribe
- Prompt
- Rest breaks
- Reading aloud

Sheldon students at KS3 and KS4 requiring EAA should have built up a body of evidence from their normal way of working in school. Sheldon students transferring to the sixth form should also have a history of need including EAA for GCSE examinations. Students joining the sixth form from other schools must provide evidence of need at the beginning of Y12 so that this can be established as their normal way of working at Sheldon throughout Y12. A Specialist Teacher will assess students for EAA in Y12 if evidence of need is provided. Referrals in Y12 can only come from teachers. Those members of staff requesting assessment for a student in Y12 need to provide evidence of the student's normal way of working before an assessment can take place. Y12 students should ensure that they seek their teachers' support from the beginning of year 12 to ensure that a history of need exists. Without this no application can be made even if EAA were in place at KS4.

