# TMA Complaints Policy (Exams) 2025-2026

Thomas Middlecott Academy

## TMA Complaints Policy (Exams) 2025-2026

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| Centre name | Thomas Middlecott Academy |
| Centre number | 26326 |
| Date policy first created | 10/10/2023 |
| Current policy approved by | Lisa Hawkins |
| Current policy reviewed by | Joanne Hoyles |
| Date of review | 20/11/2025 |
| Date of next review | 01/12/2026 |

## Key staff involved in the policy

| **Role** | **Name** |
|---|---|
| Head of centre | Lisa Hawkins |
| Senior leader(s) | Laurence Woodcock |
| Exams officer | Joanne Hoyles |
| Other staff (if applicable) | |

This policy is reviewed and updated annually to ensure that any complaints at Thomas Middlecott Academy are managed in accordance with current requirements and regulations.

## Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to confirm the arrangements for complaints at Thomas Middlecott Academy and confirms compliance with JCQ's **General Regulations for Approved Centres** (5.3, 5.8) in drawing to the attention of candidates and their parents/carers our written complaints policy which covers general complaints regarding the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification and our internal appeals procedure.

## Grounds for complaint

A candidate (or their/parent/carer) at Thomas Middlecott Academy may make a complaint on the grounds below (This is not an exhaustive list).

**Teaching and Learning**

- Non-subject specialist teacher without adequate training/subject matter expertise utilised on a long-term basis
- Teacher lacking knowledge of new specification/incorrect core content studied/taught
- Core content not adequately covered
- Inadequate feedback for a candidate following assessment(s)
- Pre-release/advance material/set task issued by the awarding body not provided on time to an examination candidate
- The taking of an assessment, which contributes to the final grade of the qualification, not conducted according to the JCQ/awarding body instructions
- Candidate not informed of their centre-assessed mark prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not informed of their centre-assessed mark in sufficient time to request/appeal a review of marking prior to marks being submitted to the awarding body
- Candidate not given sufficient time to review materials to make a decision whether to request a review of the centre-assessed mark
- Candidate unhappy with internal assessment decision (complainant to refer to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure

Additional grounds for complaint relating to teaching and learning:

N/a

**Access arrangements and special consideration**

- Candidate not assessed by the centre's appointed assessor
- Candidate not involved in decisions made regarding their access arrangements
- Candidate was not informed that an application for access arrangements was to be processed using *Access arrangements online*, complying with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018
- Candidate not informed/adequately informed of the arrangement(s) in place and the subjects or components of subjects where the arrangement(s) would not apply

- Examination information not appropriately adapted for a disabled candidate to access it
- Adapted equipment/assistive technology put in place failed during examination/assessment
- Approved access arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an examination/assessment
- Appropriate arrangement(s) not put in place at the time of an examination/assessment as a consequence of a temporary injury or impairment
- Candidate unhappy with centre decision relating to access arrangements or special consideration (complainant to refer to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure

Additional grounds for complaint relating to access arrangements:

N/a

**Entries**

- Failure to clearly explain a decision of early entry for a qualification to candidate (or parent/carer)
- Candidate not entered/entered late (incurring a late entry fee) for a required examination/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong examination/assessment
- Candidate entered for a wrong tier of entry

Additional grounds for complaint relating to examination entries:

N/a

**Conducting examinations**

- Failure to adequately brief candidate on examination timetable/regulations prior to examination/assessment taking place
- Room in which assessment held did not provide candidate with appropriate conditions for taking the examination
- Inadequate invigilation in examination room
- Failure to conduct the examination according to the regulations
- Online system failed during (on-screen) examination/assessment
- Disruption during the examination/assessment
- Alleged, suspected or actual malpractice incident not investigated/reported
- Failure to inform/update candidate on the accepted/rejected outcome of a special consideration application if provided by awarding body

Additional grounds for complaint relating to the conducting of examinations:

N/a

**Results and Post-Results**

- Before examinations, candidate not made aware of the arrangements for post-results services and the availability of senior members of centre staff after the publication of results
- Candidate not having access to a member of senior staff after the publication of results to discuss/make a decision on the submission of a results review/enquiry
- Candidate request for return of work after moderation and work not available/disposed of earlier than allowed in the regulations
- Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a result (complainant to refer via exams officer to awarding body **post-results services**)
- Candidate (or parent/carer) unhappy with a centre decision not to support a clerical re-check, a review of marking, a review of moderation or an appeal (complainant to refer to the centre's **internal appeals procedure**)
- Centre fails to adhere to its internal appeals procedure
- Centre applied for the wrong post-results service/for the wrong script for a candidate
- Centre missed awarding body deadline to apply for a post-results service
- Centre applied for a post-results service for a candidate without gaining required candidate consent/permission

Additional grounds for complaint relating to results and post-results:

N/a

## Raising a concern/complaint

If a candidate (or parent/carer) has a general concern or complaint about the centre's delivery or administration of a qualification, Thomas Middlecott Academy encourages an informal resolution in the first instance.

This can be undertaken by:

- raising the concern in writing to the Head of Centre

If a concern or complaint fails to be resolved informally, the candidate (or parent/carer) is then at liberty to make a formal complaint.

**How to make a formal complaint**

All documentation relating to the submission of a formal complaint is available from, and should be returned to:

- the Head of Centre

Formal complaints will be logged and acknowledged within:

- 3 school days

To make a formal complaint, candidates (or parents/carers) must:

- complete a complaints and appeals form, available from the Exam Officer, and return the completed form to the Head of Centre

**How a formal complaint is investigated**

The Head of Centre will further investigate or appoint a member of the senior leadership team (who is not

involved in the grounds for complaint and has no personal interest in the outcome) to investigate the complaint and report on the findings and conclusion'

The findings and conclusion of any investigation will be provided to the complainant within:

- 10 school days

## Internal appeals procedure

Following the outcome, if the complainant remains dissatisfied and believes there are clear grounds, an appeal can be submitted.

To submit an appeal, candidates (or parents/carers) must:

- Complete a complaints and appeals form

Appeals will be logged and acknowledged within:

- 3 school days

The appeal will be referred to:

- the Chair of Governors (or a special committee of the Governing body) for consideration

It will be the responsibility of to inform the appellant of the final conclusion in accordance with the internal appeals procedure.

Additional details on the internal appeals process:

N/a

## Changes 2025/2026

(update 01/10/2025)

(Removed/replaced) Under heading **Access arrangements and special consideration** removed reference to **candidate personal data consent form**/replaced with reference to complying with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018

## Centre-specific changes

Upon review in November 2025, no centre specific updates or changes were relevant to this document.