



BTEC MALPRACTICE POLICY

**Reviewed by the Governing Body
January 2021**

Introduction

Aim: To identify and minimise the risk of malpractice by learners.

- To respond to any incident of alleged malpractice promptly and objectively.
- To standardise and record any investigation of malpractice to ensure openness and fairness.
- To impose appropriate penalties and/or sanctions on learners where incidents (or attempted incidents) of malpractice are proven.
- To protect the integrity of this centre and BTEC qualifications.

Definition of Malpractice by Learners

This list is not exhaustive and other instances of malpractice may be considered by this centre at its discretion:

- Plagiarism of any nature.
- Collusion by working collaboratively with other learners to produce work that is submitted as individual learner work.
- Copying (including the use of ICT to aid copying).
- Deliberate destruction of another's work.
- Fabrication of results or evidence.
- False declaration of authenticity in relation to the contents of a portfolio or coursework.
- Impersonation by pretending to be someone else in order to produce the work for another or arranging for another to take one's place in an assessment/examination/test.

Definition of Malpractice by Centre Staff

This list is not exhaustive and other instances of malpractice may be considered by this centre at its discretion:

- Improper assistance to candidates.
- Inventing or changing marks for internally assessed work (coursework or portfolio evidence) where there is insufficient evidence of the candidates' achievement to justify the marks given or assessment decisions made.
- Failure to keep candidate coursework/portfolios of evidence secure.
- Fraudulent claims for certificates.
- Inappropriate retention of certificates.
- Assisting learners in the production of work for assessment, where the support has the potential to influence the outcomes of assessment, for example where the assistance involves centre staff producing work for the learner.
- Producing falsified witness statements, for example for evidence the learner has not generated.

- Allowing evidence, which is known by the staff member not to be the learner's own, to be included in a learner's assignment/task/portfolio/coursework.
- Facilitating and allowing impersonation.
- Misusing the conditions for special learner requirements, for example where learners are permitted support, such as an amanuensis, this is permissible up to the point where the support has the potential to influence the outcome of the assessment.
- Falsifying records/certificates, for example by alteration, substitution, or by fraud.
- Fraudulent certificate claims that is claiming for a certificate prior to the learner completing all the requirements of assessment.

To prevent malpractice, Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi will:

- Seek to avoid potential malpractice by informing learners of the centre's policy on malpractice and the penalties for attempted and actual incidents of malpractice.
- Show learners the appropriate formats to record cited texts and other materials or information sources.
- Ask learners to declare that their work is their own.
- Ask learners to provide evidence that they have interpreted and synthesised appropriate information and acknowledged any sources used.
- Conduct an investigation in a form commensurate with the nature of the malpractice allegation. Such an investigation will be supported by the HEAD OF CENTRE and all personnel linked to the allegation. It will proceed through the following stages:

1. Suspected malpractice must be reported immediately to BTEC MANAGER/EXAMINATIONS OFFICER with written report and accompanying evidence.
2. BTEC MANAGER/EXAMINATIONS OFFICER or other nominated member of staff will interview individual, who will invited to respond to the accusation in writing.
3. BTEC MANAGER/EXAMINATIONS OFFICER or other nominated member of staff to investigate if malpractice has occurred. Will advise and/ or seek advice from Edexcel as appropriate.
4. If malpractice is found, all work by individual to be reassessed, and work of other individuals if required.

In cases of alleged/suspected Malpractice, the following will be done:

- Make the individual fully aware at the earliest opportunity of the nature of the alleged malpractice and of the possible consequences should malpractice be proven.
- Give the individual the opportunity to respond to the allegations made.

- Inform the individual of the avenues for appealing against any judgment made.
- Document all stages of any investigation.

Where malpractice is proven, this centre will apply the following penalties / sanctions:

1. Any mark/grade awarded for work in question will be withdrawn. Work will need to redone with supervision.
2. In cases of severe and deliberate malpractice, the individual will be withdrawn from the course and Edexcel advised.
3. Individual has right of appeal. Circumstances will be investigated by BTEC MANAGER/EXAMINATIONS OFFICER plus SCHOOL GOVERNOR.

Quality Nominee: S Jenkins

Date:

To be updated annually by the quality nominee.