

MALPRACTICE POLICY

Aim:

- To identify and minimise the risk of malpractice by staff or 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 or staff where incidents (or attempted incidents) of malpractice are proven.
- To protect the integrity of this centre and awarding body qualifications.

In order to do this, the centre will:

- Seek to avoid potential malpractice by using the induction period and the student handbook to inform 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 source.
- 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 **Headteacher and** all personnel linked to the allegation. It will proceed through the following stages:

Stage 1

The tutor or assessor who made the original decision and who provided you with feedback. The assessor will discuss with you the reasons for reaching the conclusion of malpractice.

Stage 2

If the matter cannot be resolved your tutor or assessor will refer the matter to their nominated internal verifier/standards moderator or to the Programme Coordinator for your programme of study.

This person will re-assess your work against the standards set by the Awarding Body and will communicate their decision to you and to your tutor or assessor.

Stage 3

If there is no clear agreement after stages 1 and 2 the Programme Coordinator or lead internal verifier/standards moderator will organise an Appeals Panel for consideration of the issue

The Appeals Panel shall meet within the next 10 working days.

The decision of the Appeals Panel will be final as far as the College is concerned.

Stage 4

If you are still not satisfied with this decision, you have the right to contact the Awarding Body for your qualification and request that they investigate the matter

- 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:

There are three stages to the penalties/ sanctions process:

Stage 1 When a learner has committed a minor misdemeanour which nevertheless is significant enough to be recorded by the personal/subject tutor, with whom an action plan is agreed. The learner will receive copies of all documents, and a copy will be kept on their file.

Stage 2 When behaviour at Stage 1 is repeated and the learner does not comply with the action plan, or a more serious incident has allegedly occurred. A Stage 2 meeting is arranged, overseen by the learner's Headteacher and attended by his/her tutor and/or Curriculum Team Leader. The learner has the right to be accompanied by a parent/guardian, carer or fellow learner. Agreed actions are recorded. The learner will receive copies of all documents, and a copy will be kept on their file.

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.

