

Malpractice and Maladministration 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 the centre and QCF and BCS 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 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 / CEO and all personnel linked to the allegation.

It will proceed through the following stages:

1. The Allegation
2. Response
3. The Investigation
4. The Report
5. The Decision
6. The Appeal

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.

Qualifications will also be reported to the awarding body as follows;

Members of centre staff or learners who suspect malpractice must report this immediately to in writing, setting out a full account of the incident together with any supporting evidence.

All allegations must include (where possible):

- Centre's name, address, and number
 - learner's name and registration number
 - personnel's details (name, job role) if they are involved in the case
 - Details of the course/qualification affected, or nature of the service affected
 - Nature of the suspected or actual malpractice and associated dates
 - Details and outcome of any initial investigation carried out by the centre or anybody else involved in the case, including any mitigating circumstances.
- BCS commit to acknowledge receipt, as appropriate, to external parties within 48 hours.

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

For Learners

- Customised Curriculum will discipline procedures as appropriate.
Withdrawal of certification for part or whole assessment areas of the course.

For Staff Members

- Written warning.
- Identification of possible training needs, followed by future support and review procedures.
- Finally, where necessary Customised Curriculum's disciplinary procedures will be actioned as per Customised Curriculum's Staff Grievance Policy.

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 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

- 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.
 - 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.
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- The policy will be reviewed every 12 months by Claire Hoult, Quality Manager, Customised Curriculum

Last updated: October 2021