

Access Arrangements Policy 2017

Rationale

The Examination Access Arrangements Policy explains the actions taken to ensure inclusion throughout the school for all students with additional learning needs (ALN) including those with formally diagnosed Special Educational Needs Disabilities (SEND). The policy forms an integral part of our teaching and learning philosophy, which seeks to create a learning environment whereby every individual student may fulfil his or her full potential.

Definitions

The term **Additional Learning Need** is used as an umbrella term to incorporate <u>ALL</u> students known to be receiving intervention Learning Support provision including those pupils identified as having SEND.

Disability

Section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 defines **disability** as a 'physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on someone's ability to carry out normal day to day activities'.

Special Educational Needs

A candidate has "special educational needs" as defined in the SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years. Children have special educational needs 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 difficulties and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer. Children and young people with such conditions do not necessarily have SEN, but there is a significant overlap between disabled children and young people and those with SEN.

What are Access Arrangements?

Access arrangements are agreed before an assessment. They allow students to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding without changing the demands of the assessment. The intention behind access arrangements is to meet the particular needs of a candidate without affecting the integrity of the assessment.

Access arrangements are the principal way in which awarding bodies comply with the duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make 'reasonable adjustments.'



Reasonable Adjustments

The Equality Act 2010 requires an Awarding Body to make reasonable adjustments where a disabled person would be at a substantial disadvantage in undertaking an assessment. A reasonable adjustment for a particular person may be unique to that individual and may not be included in the list of available Access Arrangements.

How reasonable the adjustment is will depend on a number of factors including the needs of the disabled candidate/learner. An adjustment may not be considered reasonable if it involves unreasonable costs, timeframes or affects the security or integrity of the assessment.

There is no duty on the Awarding Bodies to make any adjustment to the assessment objectives being tested in an assessment.

Special Consideration

Special Consideration is a post examination adjustment to a candidate's mark or grade to reflect temporary injury, illness or other indisposition at the time of the examination/assessment.

Access Arrangements at Penketh High School

Penketh High aim to ensure that all students have equal access to examinations and are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged over their peers by any long term, substantial SEND/or ALN which fall into the following four categories: -

- 1. Communication and interaction.
- 2. Cognition and learning.
- 3. Social, emotional and mental health
- 4. Sensory and/or physical needs.

We will do this by applying the rules for Access Arrangements as set out in the most recent Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ guidelines 1/09/2016). We believe it is important to abide by the JCQ regulations, so that there is parity in how access arrangements are awarded throughout a student's secondary schooling.

We will use every opportunity to identify students' needs from their first contact with the school. Professional reports will be requested to explain the need of the student and also if required, will make a recommendation for a reasonable adjustment to be made to meet the student's needs and explain the type of access arrangements that are appropriate. Access arrangements reflect the support that is usually given to the student in the classroom, internal exams and mock examinations. This is commonly referred to as 'normal way of working.'

When might students need to be given Exam Access Arrangements? An Exam Access Arrangement (EAA) is a provision or type of support given to a student (subject to exam board approval) in an exam, where a particular need has been identified and is provided so that the student has appropriate access to the exam.

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Access Arrangements	What is it?	<u>Criteria</u>
Scribe	A trained adult writes for the student. The student would dictate their answers. The scribe would write exactly what they say including the dictation of appropriate punctuation.	A student has a physical disability; where her/his writing: • Is illegible and may hamper their ability to be understood • Speed is too slow to be able to complete the exam in the allotted time. In MFL, the student must dictate every word in the target language and must do so letter by letter.
Reader	A trained adult who would read the question and any relevant text (with the exception of Section A of an English GCSE Exam) for the student. The student would then write the answer/s themselves. A reader can read instructions an the whole paper if necessary or the standard standar	A student has a standardised score of <u>84 or below</u> in a test delivered by Specialist Teacher (100 is the average). (which was carried out within 24 months of the exam) d questions to the student; read he student may prefer to just ask
	for some specific words to be rea What is it?	Criteria
Prompter	A trained adult can prompt them with a few permitted phrases to refocus, move the student on to the next question or indicate how much time is left.	A student who persistently loses concentration/focus, and is not aware of time and this can also be put in place for students who are affected by OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder). Students with OCD often focus on the question in particular rather than moving onto look at other questions in the exam paper.
Transcript	An <u>exact</u> copy of a student's exam script made after the exam without participation of the student.	Only to be used where a student's handwriting or spelling is difficult to decipher for those not familiar with it. This can also be put in place for students with a temporary injury where the use of a laptop is not appropriate.
Read Aloud	Where a candidate is reading difficult text he/she may work	A candidate who persistently struggles to understand what

		vever	
	more effectively if they can	they have read, but who does	
	hear themselves read.	not qualify for a reader, to read	
		aloud.	
	The arrangement must reflect th	The arrangement must reflect the candidate's normal way of	
	working in internal school tests	and mock examinations.	
	A candidate who reads aloud to h	nimself/herself must be	
	accommodated separately withir	n the centre.	
Separate Room	A student with a medical condition	on such as epilepsy/diabetes	
	where it isn't appropriate for the	m to sit an exam in the main	
	exam hall. Students who are ago	raphobic/have a psychological	
	condition may also need to sit an	exam in a separate room.	
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	Medical evidence must be provide	ded in advance to support this	
	arrangement and then be appro		
Access Arrangements	What is it?	Criteria	
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Modified Papers	Individually prepared papers	Students for whom other	
-	for candidates.	access arrangement are	
	The modification of papers	unsuitable.	
	involves additional resources.		
	Therefore centres are required		
	to provide the awarding bodies		
	with early notification that a		
	candidate will require a		
	modified paper.		
	Modified papers must be ordered	d in advance of a specific	
	examination series.		
	Centres must not order papers fo	or candidates unless they intend	
	to enter them for the relevant ex		
	GCSE and GCE modified papers.	Access arrangements online allows centred to place orders for GCSE and GCE modified papers.	
Laptop	Access to a laptop for an exam	The provision to use a laptop is	
	(if appropriate – not for	put in place to address an	
	subjects such as Maths) so the	underlying difficulty such as;	
	student would word process	speed of handwriting, medical	
	their answers. Spelling and	condition, physical disability,	
	grammar checks would be	sensory impairment, planning	
	disabled and a special exam	and organisational difficulties	
	account would be used with no	or poor legibility.	
	internet access.		
	micrinet decess.		



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	The use of a laptop in exams refle	ects the student's normal way of
	working at the school and has been agreed as appropriate to the	
	student's needs. The use of a laptop cannot be granted to a	
	student simply because this is their preferred way of working.	
	Centres are allowed to provide a word processor with the spelling	
	and grammar check facility/predi	ctive text disabled (switched off)
	to a candidate where it is their no	ormal way of working within the
	centre and is appropriate to their	-
	For example, quality of language	
	of using a word processor due to	
	organisation when writing by han	
	of electronic braillers and tablets	-
Access Arrangements	What is it?	Criteria
Rest Breaks	Students are permitted to stop	A student has a physical
	for short break/s during the	disability which prevents them
	exam and the time stopped is	from concentrating for long
	added to the finish time, with	periods of time.
	the effect of elongating the	<u> </u>
	exam but not actually using any	
	extra time.	
	extra time.	
	Students are not permitted to	
	have exam materials with	
	them during rest breaks and	
	will be supervised by an	
	invigilator during these breaks.	tion from the even board before
	-	tion from the exam board before
	considering extra time.	
	Rest breaks are not included in any Extra Time allowance that	
	the student may have.	
	the student may have.	
	The amount of time awarded is granted at the discretion of the	
	SENDCo	statica at the disciplion of the
Extra Time	Students may be entitled to an	Students will have an
	allowance of 25% depending on	assessment to determine their
	the history of evidence of need	speed of processing. A
	(Appendix1) and the	standardised score of 84 or
	recommendation of the	below (100 being average) can
	Designated Specialist Teacher	qualify for extra time.
	or Teaching Assistant.	In exceptional circumstances, a
	o cacining / issistant.	candidate may require more
	Extra time between 26 and	than 50% extra time in order
	50% can be granted in	to manage a very substantial
	extraordinary circumstances.	impairment.
	There are cases where a student	•
	these cases more evidence is nee	_
	should receive extra time. This could be in the form of an	
	extensive history of need, formal diagnosis of a significant	
	learning difficulty, or evidence of	a substantial long term adverse

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	effect on the performance of a ch	nild's speed of working.
	The amount of time that a student should receive is decided by the Specialist Tester and based upon their processing speeds.	
Access Arrangements	What is it?	Criteria
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Live Speaker	A live speaker for a pre- recorded examination components, e.g. MFL listening examinations, to a candidate where it is normal way of working within the centre.	Students who have <u>persistent</u> and <u>significant</u> difficulties in following speech at a normal speed.
	The live speaker will speak or read aloud the contents of the CD or tape in a Listening examination.	
Oral Language Modifier	A responsible adult who may clarify the carrier language used in the examination paper when requested to do so by a candidate.	Students whose disability has a very <u>substantial and long term</u> adverse effect resulting in very persistent and significant difficulties in accessing and
	The Oral Language Modifier must not explain technical terms or subject – specific terms. The ability to	processing information.
	understand these terms is part of the assessment. If such terms are explained to the	
	candidate then the demands of the question will have been compromised and may	
	constitute malpractice. An Oral Language Modifier must arrangement.	be seen as rare and exceptional
	An Oral Language Modifier is an a application must be only be made arrangements have been conside or workable. There must be a veran Oral Language Modifier is requested An Oral Language Modifier may a An Oral Language Modifier will not or texts in a paper (or a section of A candidate who would normally Modifier, but is not permitted this	e once all relevant access red and found to be unsuitable ry strong justification as to why uired. Ilso act as a reader. It be allowed to read questions f a paper) testing reading.
	section of a paper) testing readin maximum of 50% extra time. An approved application for an O the centre to grant the candidate	ral Language Modifier will allow

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	time in as paper (or section of a paper) testing reading.	
Access Arrangements	What is it?	Criteria
Bilingual translation	Only to be used by student's	Should reflect the student's
dictionaries (with up to a	whose first language is not	normal way of working.
maximum of 25% extra time)	English, Irish or Welsh.	normal way or working.
maximum or 23% extra time;	Linguisti, itisii or Weisti.	
	The bilingual distingual mount	
	The bilingual dictionary must	
	be held in the centre to ensure	
	no unauthorised information	
	e.g. notes/revision is enclosed	
	or written inside.	
	Such dictionaries must not be use Language or Welsh Language exa	
	Language examinations testing or	
	dictionary or a similar language, f	
	dictionary in a Spanish examination	on. The use of a bilingual
	translation dictionary.	
	Exceptions to these rules are:	
	The writing Test in GCSE Arabic, G	GCSE Bengali, GCSE Dutch ,
	GCSE Greek, GCSE Gujarati, GCSE	Japanese, GCSE Modern
	Hebrew, GCSE Punjabi, GCSE Pers	sian, GCSE Polish, GCSE
	Portuguese, GCSE Russian and GC	CSE Turkish where the
	specification states that all candid	dates must have access to a
	bilingual dictionary.	
	Candidates who are permitted to	use bilingual translation
	dictionaries may also be allowed	_
	time, depending on need, if they	•
	less than two years at the time of	
	still has a very limited knowledge	
	_	
	time reflects the candidates norm	,
	For aural tests, clear amplification	
	the candidate's ability to hear, or	
	may be read to enable the candic	late to also lip/speech read.
	The centre must consult a special	
	teacher of the Deaf, to identify th	
	for a candidate with hearing loss.	•
	read aloud the contents of the CI	O or tape in a listening
	examination.	
	Extra time of 25% should always	be considered on account of the
	additional repetition which may b	oe required. Additionally, 25%
	extra time may also be required i	n light of the candidate's
	persistent and significant difficult	ies in following speech at normal
	speed. In very rare and exception	
	may require up to 50% extras tim	



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Access Arrangements	What is it? Criteria	
Access Arrangements	windt is it.	Citteria
Sign Language Interpreter	A trained adult who presents the questions in a different language without: • Changing the meaning • Providing any additional information or • Providing an explanation as to what the question requires of the candidate	Students whose normal way of working requires sign language interpretation
	A Sign Language Interpreter is no person may act as a reader and S Permission must have been given Sign Language Interpreter.	ign Language Interpreter.
	The Sign Language Interpreter ca questions to candidates taking wi Foreign Languages or English, Iris examinations.	ritten papers except in Modern
	The Sign Language Interpreter mare requested to do so by the candidathe carrier language may be proved However, under no circumstance question or clarification of the carrier language.	ate. An alternative translation of ided. es may an explanation of the
	These actions would be deemed a advantage and may constitute m Candidates may only sign their a controlled assessments/ courses finger spell the answers or where words.	alpractice. nswers in question papers or in vork where it is possible to
	Sign Language Interpretation is do candidate during the examination candidate's regional variations in	n in order to allow for the
	Consequently, sign language inte the awarding body for accuracy. disadvantage or advantage the ca	Great care must be taken not to
	Candidates requiring the use of a need to be accommodated separative invigilator will be required.	
Access Arrangements	What is it?	Criteria



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Practical Assistant	The candidate will be sitting his/her examination(s) at a residential address or at a hospital which is a nonregistered centre due to, for example: • a medical condition which prevents the candidate from taking the examination in the centre; or • Social, Mental and Emotional Needs. The centre must be satisfied that examinations. The SENDCo, or a senior member responsibilities, must produce we need for an alternative site arrail Inspector upon request. Is not a reader or scribe. The same person may act as a practical assistant, a reader and/or a scribe as long as permission has been given for these arrangements. The regulations for the use of each arrangement must be	r of staff with pastoral ritten evidence confirming the
Access Arrangements Other Arrangements	strictly adhered to. A practical assistant must not be tasks or demonstrate physical ab the assessment objectives. A prabe permitted in subjects such as a Technology and Music. Candidates using a practical assis written examinations may need to in which case a separate invigilar. The invigilator must be made away the particular task(s) the practical what is it? • Amplification equipment • Closed circuit television (CCTV) • Colour naming by the	ilities where they form part of actical assistant will not normally Art & Design, Design & tant in externally set practical or to be accommodated separately, tor will be required. are, prior to the examination, of assistant will be performing. Criteria Centres must note that candidates are only entitled to the above arrangements if they are disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act.
	invigilator for candidates who are	The candidate is at a substantial disadvantage when compared

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	Coloured Blind	with other non-disabled
	 Coloured Overlays (this 	candidates undertaking the
	would also include	assessment and it would be
	reading rulers, virtual	reasonable in all the
	overlays and virtual	circumstances to provide the
	reading rulers)	arrangement.
	 Low vision 	
	aid/magnifier	
	 Optical Character 	
	Reader (OCR) scanners	
	 Separate invigilation 	
	within the centre.	
	In the case of separate invigilation, the candidate's difficulties are established within the centre and known to the FormTutor, a Head of Year, the SENDCo or a senior member of staff with a	
	pastoral responsibilities.	
	Separate invigilation reflects the candidate's normal way of working in internal school tests and mock examinations as a	
	consequence of a long term medi	ical condition or long term social,
	mental or emotional needs.	
Exemptions	An exemption is an agreement reached by an awarding body,	
	before the examination, for a disabled candidate to miss a	
	component or components.	
	An indication will be placed on th	
	that not all of the assessment objectives were accessible.	
	An exemption will not be granted if an alternative and	
	assessable route through a qualification is available to the	
	candidate.	
	The centre In the first instance sl	
	result in an automatic rejection.	
	referral to the relevant awarding	
		that an awarding hady hac tha
i	the candidate's disability in order	
	necessary information to hand w	hen considering an application
	necessary information to hand we for an exemption. The awarding	hen considering an application body <u>must</u> be assured that the
	necessary information to hand w	hen considering an application body <u>must</u> be assured that the
	necessary information to hand when the for an exemption. The awarding exemption is an arrangement of the second sec	hen considering an application body must be assured that the the last resort.
	necessary information to hand we for an exemption. The awarding	hen considering an application body must be assured that the the last resort. barriers to access remain,
	necessary information to hand we for an exemption. The awarding exemption is an arrangement of the In Functional Skills English where	hen considering an application body must be assured that the the last resort. barriers to access remain, and up to two of the three assessed
	necessary information to hand we for an exemption. The awarding exemption is an arrangement of the In Functional Skills English where candidates can be exempted from	hen considering an application body must be assured that the the last resort. barriers to access remain, an up to two of the three assessed ent does not apply to Functional
	necessary information to hand where for an exemption. The awarding exemption is an arrangement of the summation of the summat	hen considering an application body must be assured that the the last resort. barriers to access remain, an up to two of the three assessed ent does not apply to Functional

What evidence is needed to apply for EAA?

There are a number of pieces of evidence that can be used to apply for EAA to Joint Council for Qualifications: (JCQ):

- Form 8 report from a Specialist Teacher or Specialist Teaching Assistant
- Previous EAA from Primary Schools/ other Education Providers



- Subject Teachers example of work as appropriate
- Results of baseline tests e. g reading/comprehension age, writing tests
- Evidence of a candidate's "normal way of working" in the centre

Private Educational Psychologist Reports

A growing number of parents are having their children assessed by Private Educational Psychologist and submitting the reports to the SENDCo as evidence that their child should be awarded extra time, or EAA.

Private Educational Psychologist's reports cost a significant amount of money. This therefore means that parents who are unable to obtain a private report through financial circumstances are put at a disadvantage. As an exam centre we must be consistent in our decisions and ensure that no student is 'either given an unfair advantage or be disadvantaged by an arrangement put in place. Often Private Educational Psychologist's, recommend that children should receive EAA which can be in conflict with what the centre tester (Specialist Teacher) recommends. We will also look for evidence of a history of need.

Procedures

How students would be identified for Exam Access Arrangements:

- They would have had EAA at KS2 for their SAT's
- From baseline testing completed on the Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT) Day's in Year 7
- Parental Referral
- Subject Teacher Referral

KS2 SAT EAA

Students who have EAA at KS2 are screened for EAA at KS3 and KS4. Although they may have received EAA at KS2, it doesn't necessarily mean that they automatically receive it at KS3or KS4 because their needs may have changed. For example, a student who had a reader for KS2 may not qualify for Reader at KS4 because their reading has improved to the extent it does not meet the exam board criteria.

Baseline Testing in Year 7

All students in Year 7 are tested on the CAT's Days in September. We use the cognitive Ability Tests (CATs), Reading and Comprehension, and a spelling test. These tests can help identify learning difficulties such as Dyslexia. The SENDCo will contact parents where this is the case, do further testing, and if necessary put an appropriate intervention in place.

Parent Referral

Parents can contact the school to ask for advice about testing if they have concerns with the progress and learning of their child. Once contact has been made with the parent, the SENDCo will investigate their concerns by sending a 'Round Robin' to the child's teachers to gain information. Following this, a decision will be made as to whether it is appropriate to test a student.

Teacher Referral

As with Parent Referrals, teachers can refer a student to the SENDCo where they have concerns about the learning and progress of a student in their class. All students current teachers will be



asked to give feedback to gain information, following this, a decision will be made as to whether to test a student for EAA. Where a teacher thinks that a student requires extra time, they are asked to get the student to change the colour of the pen that they are using once the allotted time is up, and continue writing until they have finished. This is then used as proof to JCQ and the exam boards of a history of need. Teachers are asked to refer the student to the SENDCo initially if they feel that a child may be dyslexic rather than contacting parents about their concerns. The SENDCo will then contact the parents if the concerns are founded.

How do staff and parents know whether a student has Exam Access Arrangements?

- Teaching and support staff can access the list on Staff Shared Area. It is updated on a
 monthly basis or whenever students become entitled to it. The information about results of
 assessments for EAA are kept confidentially in line with the school policy, and are shared on
 a need to know basis.
- Staff will be informed of any changes to the EAA list via email or the Hub.
- Parents will be informed of any tests results via a letter home which states what they are entitled to, why and when.

How are Exam Access Arrangements applied for?

Students need to be tested at each Key Stage for EAA. Just because they were entitled to EAA at KS2 does not automatically entitle them to it at KS3 and KS4. Therefore the Specialist Teacher tests students who are referred to us, or who have had EAA in earlier Key Stages.

The Specialist Teacher will assess students using a variety of nationally recognised tests such as:

- Access Reading Comprehension test
- Detailed Assessment of Speed of Handwriting (DASH)
- British Picture Vocabulary Scales (2&3)
- Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing 2 (CTOPP)
- Phonological Assessment Battery
- Diagnostic Reading Test (DRA)

The tests the Specialist Tester uses are replaced/upgraded periodically in line with current practice. The test that the Specialist Tester uses depends very much upon the type of barrier to learning that the student may have. Should the student need further testing to assess for other learning issues or further EAA, the Specialist Tester will arrange this. Following a report produced by the Specialist Tester an application is made to the Exam boards for permission to implement the specified arrangement/s.

What support is given to students with EAA?

Students with EAA are encouraged to use their EAA during internal assessments and exams so that they gain practice at using it effectively.

Students who have access to a reader or scribe are shown how to use them appropriately in exam situations, and it is explained to them what they can and can't do with the reader/scribe during the exam, and how much support the adult is allowed to give. Students with extra time are given sessions with a teaching assistant on how to use the additional time allowance effectively. They then need to apply the techniques and strategies given to them in internal exams and assessments.

All teachers are given access to the list of students with EAA, and they are asked to give SENDCo at



least two weeks' notice before they assess students so that support can be provided for students who require it during the tests/exams. Students who have a reader can be supported by the Teaching Assistant supervising the test. The SENDCo/Exams Officer can provide a separate room, access to ICT and a scribe with the required amount of notice. The SENDCo requires two weeks' notice so that teaching assistants can be deployed if necessary to other students.

Students with EAA are monitored regularly through the use of 'The Watch List'

In the event that a student does not wish to make use of their EAA in any given exam, they will be required to sign a form to indicate that they were aware that EAA was available to them, but it was their choice not to use them. However, where a student is deemed under the Mental Health Act (Code of Practice 2014) to be unable to make this decision the use of EAA will actively be encouraged.

What are the procedures for processing an application?

Once the tests have been conducted and there is a recommendation from the tester for EAA, the SENDCo, Specialist Teacher or Exams Officer then applies to the exam boards. The feedback is instant and at this point the EAA is added to the list of students and the parents are informed of the EAA by letter.

The application will require evidence of need, and the centre needs to hold evidence in its files that can be inspected at short notice. This can include;

- Recommendations by teachers
- Educational Psychologist Report
- Letters from outside agencies such as CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services), hospitals or doctors
- Information from SALT (Speech and Language Team)
- Statement of Educational Need in Education, Health and Care plans (EHCP)

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Permission from the exam board for the arrangement/s

- A signed copy of the form 8 report by the designated tester
- · A data protection form signed by the student
- For Extra time history of evidence of need in the form of copies of work where a student has regularly used more than the allocated time

Deadlines for submitting applications for access arrangements and modified papers on-line for GCSE and GSE qualifications

Access arrangements may cover the entire course and for GCSE and GCE qualifications **must** be processed using access arrangements online **as early as possible.**

The deadline set by the JCQ is final, late entries will incur further inspections by the JCQ.

The decision to apply for access arrangements is based on evidence of history of need, history of provision and a specialist teacher access arrangements reports.

Date: 24th May 2017 Review Date: