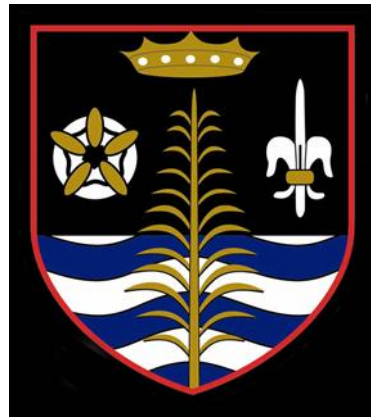


# **BLESSED ROBERT SUTTON CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**



## **Emergency Evacuation Policy Exams 2025/2026**

## **Key staff involved in the emergency evacuation policy/procedure**

Head of Centre  
Exams Officer  
SEnCo  
SLT members

## **Purpose of the policy**

This policy details how Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy [BRS] deals with an emergency evacuation of the exam room(s) by defining staff roles and responsibilities and confirming the emergency evacuation procedure.

## **When is an emergency evacuation required?**

An emergency evacuation is required where it is unsafe for candidates to remain in the exam room. This might include a fire in the exam room, the fire alarm sounding to warn of fire, bomb alert or other serious threat.

In exceptional situations, where candidates might be severely disadvantaged or distressed by remaining in the exam room, the emergency evacuation procedure may also need to be followed. This might include situations where there is severe disruption in the exam room, serious illness of a candidate or invigilator or similarly serious incidents.

As each incident may be different, advice will be sought from the relevant awarding body as soon as it is safe to do so.

Where candidates are unable to return to the building to complete the examination, the relevant awarding body will be contacted immediately for advice.

## **Emergency evacuation of an exam room**

### **Roles and responsibilities**

#### **Head of centre**

- Ensures the emergency evacuation policy for exams is fit for purpose and complies with relevant health and safety regulation
- Ensures any instructions from relevant local or national agencies are referenced and followed where applicable
- Ensures any breach of question paper security or malpractice is reported to the awarding body immediately (ICE 25.5)



### **Senior leader**

- Where responsible for the centre-wide emergency evacuation procedure, ensures all staff and appointed fire marshals are aware of the policy and procedures to be followed when an emergency evacuation of an exam room is required

### **Special educational needs coordinator (SENCo)**

- Ensures appropriate arrangements are in place for the emergency evacuation of a disabled candidate from an exam room where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for the candidate
- Ensures the candidate is informed prior to taking their exams of what will happen in the event of an emergency evacuation

### **Exams officer**

- Ensures invigilators are trained in emergency evacuation procedures and how an incident and actions taken must be recorded
- Ensures candidates are briefed prior to exams taking place, on what will happen in the event of an emergency in the exam room
- Provides invigilators with a copy of the emergency evacuation procedure for every exam room
- Provides an exam room incident log in each exam room
- Liaises with the SENCo and briefs invigilators prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- Briefs invigilators prior to each exam where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate
- Ensures appropriate follow-up is undertaken after an emergency evacuation, reporting the incident to the awarding body and the actions taken
- Ensures a full report of the incident is produced and retained on file if required by an awarding body (ICE 25.4)
- Ensures an online application for special consideration is submitted to the relevant awarding body where candidates have been disadvantaged (ICE 25.7)

### **Invigilators**

- By attending training and/or update sessions, ensure they understand what to do in the event of an emergency in the exam room
- Follow the actions required in the emergency evacuation procedure issued to them for every exam room
- Confirm with the exams officer, where different procedures or assistance may need to be provided for a disabled candidate they are invigilating
- Record details on the exam room incident log to support follow-up reporting to the awarding body by the exams officer (see below)



### **Other relevant centre staff**

- Support the senior leader, SENCo, exams officer and invigilators in ensuring the safe emergency evacuation of exam rooms

### **Recording details**

As soon as practically possible and safe to do so, details should be recorded. Details must include:

- the actual time of the start of the interruption
- the actions taken
- the actual time the exam(s) resumed
- the actual finishing time(s) of the resumed exam(s)

Further details could include:

- report on candidate behaviour throughout the interruption/evacuation
- a judgement on the impact on candidates after the interruption/evacuation



# Fire and Emergency Evacuation Procedures

- On the *Exam Incident Log* note the time that the Fire alarm goes off and how long the exam has been going.
- **Ask the students to stop writing.**

## **IMPORTANT - then announce as follows:**

“Before we exit the exam room I must remind you that you are still under examination board conditions and under **NO CIRCUMSTANCES** should you talk to one another or communicate in any way. Remember that a **breach of regulations could mean disqualification from the exam**”.

## **Then announce as follows:**

- “All examination questions and answer papers, and materials should be left on the exam desks and **NOT** taken out”.
- “No bags or personal belongings are to be taken out of the exam”.
- “You will line up as per the seating plan on the yard by the Sports Hall entrance **EXACTLY** as you did before the start of this exam”.

## **Then:**

- Take out the **SEATING PLAN** and a **PEN** ready for a roll call.
- The Invigilator(s) will lead the students through the relevant fire exit, while observing that the students obey the exam conditions. Candidates will leave the room in silence and invigilators/staff will ensure that candidates are supervised as closely as possible while they are out of the examination room to make sure there is no discussion about the examination.
- Students should line up as per the seating plan and wait for the Exams Officer and/or Invigilator to complete the roll call.
- After re-entering the examination room, note the time of the re-start and change the finish time ensuring that all candidates have the full working time set for the examination.





Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Sports College