

# The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust

## Early Entry Policy

### Version Control

**Policy author:** Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
**Policy approved by:** Trust Board  
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Version	Date	Details
1.0	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Policy written

Evidence suggests that large cohort early entry in subjects has an overall negative impact on student achievement-please see [Early Entry into GCSE Exams in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk). Therefore, The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust (MAT) limits the number of early entries at GCSE and A-level to ensure students have the maximum time for learning and the best opportunity to make at least good progress in all their subjects.

In vocational subjects, externally assessed units should be taken at the most appropriate time within the course to maximise student achievement in relation to the taught material and to allow for legitimate resit opportunities within the published limitations of the qualification specification. Entry points should be made clear in options booklets and in course overview materials given to students and parents/carers. Information regarding the external assessment should be sent to parents/carers and discussed with students well in advance.

There may be some opportunities for individuals and/or small groups to enter examinations early. In each case, early entries will be discussed with students and parents/carers prior to entry with the following sequence of events:

- Students informed within the classroom by the class teacher.
- Parents/Carers issued with a letter providing them with the opportunity to withdraw their son/daughter from the early entry if they wish. Students do not have to sit examinations early against their wishes.
- Opportunities for parents/carers and students to meet with a senior member of the school and the relevant head of department to discuss the early entry.

Any department wishing to enter students early must:

- Provide a clear rationale of the selection process for early entry.
- Discuss the plan with their line manager.
- Present the plan to the relevant member of the senior leadership team.

Final decisions regarding early entry will be taken by each headteacher. The decision will be based upon each student's individual circumstances, taking into account the professional judgement of staff and the availability of resources.