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| **Person responsible for policy:** | Emma Shaw |
| **Date approved:** | November 2022 |
| **Review date:** | November 2025 |

**Contextual Information:**

Park Lane School caters for pupils aged 2-19 that have severe and complex learning difficulties. Some of the pupils have additional difficulties including visual and hearing impairment, Autism, physical, behavioural and medical needs. The school forms part of the special education provision for the east of Cheshire and takes pupils from Wilmslow, Knutsford, Poynton and Congleton, as well as Macclesfield. The school has a small number of pupils from ethnic backgrounds. Students in the 6th Form study for qualifications run through the awarding body, ASDAN. All 6th Form students work towards a diploma in Personal progress and some students also work towards a certificate in Personal and Social Development.

**Background Information**

Conflict of Interest is defined by Ofqual (General Conditions of Recognition, June 2016), in relation to awarding organisations as existing where:

* its interests in any activity undertaken by it, on its behalf, or by a member of its Group have the potential to lead it to act contrary to its interests in the development, delivery and award of qualifications in accordance with its Conditions of Recognition
* a person who is connected to the development, delivery or award of qualifications by the awarding organisation has interests in any other activity which have the potential to lead that person to act contrary to his or her interests in that development, delivery or award in accordance with the awarding organisation’s Conditions of Recognition
* an informed and reasonable observer would conclude that either of these situations was the case.

**Park Lane School Conflict of Interest Procedures:**

As an approved centre within the Awarding Organisation ASDAN, we will take all reasonable steps to:

* identify and monitor:
1. all conflicts of interest which relate to it
2. any scenario in which it is reasonably foreseeable that any such conflicts of interest will arise in the future
* ensure that no conflict of interest which relates to it has an Adverse Effect (as defined in Ofqual General Conditions of Recognition), and where a conflict of interest has an Adverse Effect Park Lane School will take all reasonable steps to mitigate the Adverse Effect as far as possible and correct it, with notification to ASDAN organisation.
* ensure that, in relation to assessment, moderation and awarding:
1. no person who has a personal interest in the result will be involved
2. where, having taken reasonable steps, the involvement by such a person cannot be avoided, the awarding organisation will make arrangements for scrutiny by another person

Park Lane School (centre 5545) take all reasonable steps to support this policy in relation to Conflict of Interest, in order that Regulatory Conditions are met, and in order that there is no detrimental impact on standards of, or public confidence in, quality assurance and awarding.

In particular in relation to assessment and internal moderation it is important that, as part of the Centre Approval Process:

* Park Lane School declare their awareness of the potential for conflict of interest, and take reasonable steps to ensure that the assessment of a learner is not undertaken by any person who has a personal interest in the result of the assessment (eg where an assessor is related to, a friend of or PA to a student).
* Staff will report such conflicts of interest in order that Park Lane School can make arrangements for the relevant part of the assessment to be subject to scrutiny by another person.
* Staff will also report any conflicts of interest arising as a result of personal relationships between staff and/or parents. For example, if staff involved in the delivery, assessment and moderation of the qualifications are involved in a personal relationship or are related to each other or are involved in a personal relationship with a parent of a student.

Where there is a perceived conflict of interest, the following procedure will apply in order to avoid Adverse Effects:

1. Park Lane School will report perceived conflict of interest, at the earliest opportunity, to ASDAN Head of Quality Assurance
2. Identified conflict of interest is investigated by the Park Lane School ASDAN Co-ordinator. This will vary according to the nature of the perceived conflict.
3. The individual(s) involved in the conflict will be contacted to provide further details, along with any independent “witnesses”, and an assessment is made of the situation, in particular any actions that need to be taken to mitigate the Adverse Effects that might occur
4. A full record of the investigation and decisions will be made and kept, and a report provided to the centre.
5. Where Adverse Effects are thought to have occurred ASDAN will be informed at the earliest opportunity.

**Monitoring and Review:**

All staff involved in the delivery of the ASDAN qualifications will be required to complete a form annually, declaring any conflict of interest.

This policy will be reviewed in line with any changes from Ofqual or ASDAN.

**Moderation and Conflict of interest within ASDAN procedures Declaration Form:**

Conflict of Interest is defined by Ofqual (General Conditions of Recognition, June 2016). In particular in relation to assessment and internal moderation it is important that, as part of the Centre Approval Process:

* all centres declare their awareness of the potential for conflict of interest, and take reasonable steps to ensure that the assessment of a learner is not undertaken by any person who has a personal interest in the result of the assessment (eg where student is family or friend of assessor)
* all centres are required to report such conflicts of interest in order that ASDAN can make arrangements for the relevant part of the assessment to be subject to scrutiny by another person