

A guide to Assessment Arrangements at NBHS



The SQA (Scottish Qualifications Authority) is Scotland's national qualifications body and they "set, maintain and monitor qualifications and assessment standards".

At North Berwick High School, we work within the framework for SQA qualifications and therefore must conform to their regulations. Assessment Arrangements are part of these regulations and most follow the guidance set by SQA .

What is an 'Assessment Arrangement'?

Assessment Arrangements allow candidates who have been identified as having additional support needs, appropriate arrangements to access the assessment without compromising its integrity. They are often referred to as AAs.

The purpose of Assessment Arrangements is to provide candidates with additional support needs an equal opportunity to show the skills, knowledge and understanding they have achieved.

To be effective, the evidence for an Assessment Arrangement needs to show that it makes a **significant difference to the candidate's result**.

In all cases, it is the individual assessment needs of candidates that must be the basis for the provision of an assessment arrangement.

The 4 Principals that underpin Assessment Arrangement Policy:

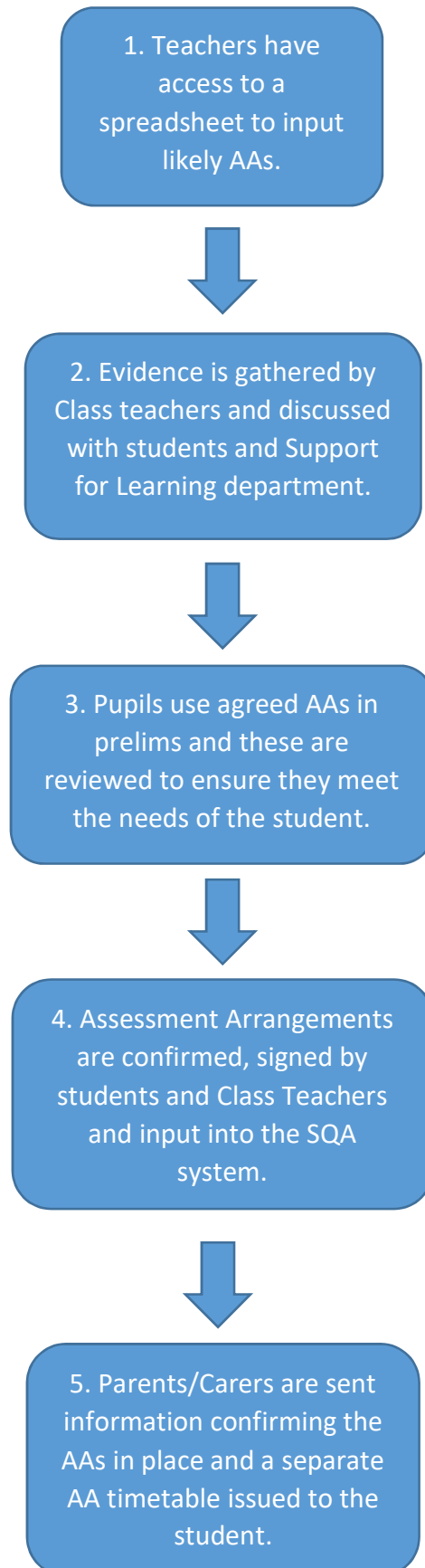
1. AAs are intended to enable candidates to demonstrate their attainment, not to compensate for lack of attainment.
2. AAs must not compromise the integrity of the qualification.
3. AAs must be tailored to meet a candidate's individual needs.
4. AAs should reflect, as far as possible, the candidate's usual way of learning and producing in class.

Examples of Assessment Arrangements

- Adapted and digital papers
- Use of IT with/without spellchecker
- Extra time
- Reader
- Scribe
- Separate Accommodation

We are required to follow SQA Quality Assurance Framework when submitting and confirming arrangements. Evidence is at the heart of all AAs and this will be vital when we are audited by the SQA.

Assessment Arrangements Process at NBHS



Frequently asked questions :

1. If my child is getting an arrangement in one subject, why are they not getting it in all their subjects?

AAs are on a subject by subject basis and all Class Teachers have to submit evidence to show that the arrangement is needed. For example, a student may require extra time in English but not in Maths.

2. My child has Dyslexia but they are not getting arrangements in all their subjects?

There is no automatic entitlement to arrangements for students with specific additional support needs, each arrangement has to be made on its own merit and have evidence to show need.

3. What is separate accommodation?

Students who are given separate accommodation will most likely be in a small group. Individual accommodation is for pupils who have medical conditions requiring access to other amenities or where dialogue is needed between the candidate and a reader or scribe for example.

4. My child had AAs last year. Will these automatically carry over to the next year?

Evidence for Assessment Arrangements need to be reviewed each year so AAs at National 5 will not necessarily mean the same arrangements as Higher. If the student is resitting the same level and there has been no change in their circumstances evidence can be carried over to the next year.

