Five tips for marking "flagged" work inclusively

Marking should always aim to be fair, consistent, transparent and – unless technical English language accuracy in writing is a specific learning objective – should be marked for content only. This means ignoring errors which don't affect the meaning or purpose of the text. Where technical English language accuracy in writing is a learning objective, work flagged for marking consideration is still required to meet the assessment criteria standard.

1. Acknowledge unconscious bias

When marking – flagged or otherwise – it can be helpful to acknowledge that having unconscious bias is normal and we can take steps to reduce its impact. Reminding ourselves that students may have known or unknown challenges which may manifest in their writing, and are not linked to laziness or carelessness, is a good place to start.

2. Check your understanding of how specific learning difficulties -such as dyslexia- may manifest in writing.

For example:

| Spelling, punctation and grammar errors. | Challenges proof reading, resulting in typos and errors persisting. | Non-linear argument structure. | Simplistic or limited range of vocabulary, to avoid potential errors. |

3. Immerse yourself in the marking criteria

Immersing yourself in the marking criteria will help you to be consistent, fair and objective in your marking approach.Start by:

- Identifying if technical English language accuracy in writing is – or is not- being assessed. If it is required, this should be explicit in both learning objectives and assessment criteria.

- Mapping the learning objective to the assessment criteria to explore how the learning objectives are to be demonstrated within the given assessment design.

4. Team calibration

Calibration exercises can be used effectively to ensure that marking teams give similar marks. Start by:

- Bringing markers together.

- Checking task demand, passing standards and grade boundaries as a team.

- Checking shared understanding of the markingcriteria and if technical accuracy in writing is or is not required.

5. Speed read

Speed read to gain an overview of the knowledge, ideas and understanding demonstrated. Don't slow down to identify or comment on spelling, grammar and punctuation. This will help you focus on the content rather than the execution.