

Academic Honesty Policy | Years 7–9



One of the core values at Ascham is: **Responsibility**—owning your own actions and recognising their potential influence.

We expect that Ascham students demonstrate academic honesty at all times. Academic honesty means that:

- your work is your own
- you do not benefit academically by misleading or being unfair to others
- you acknowledge information or resources that someone else has written or created.

There are two significant areas where academic honesty is compromised:

1. Malpractice or misconduct
2. Plagiarism.

What is Malpractice/Misconduct?

Academic malpractice or misconduct is any activity undertaken by a student that allows them to gain an unfair advantage over others. It includes but is not restricted to:

- breaching School examination rules (this includes bringing in unauthorised notes and/or unauthorised electronic equipment)
- using non-approved aids during assessment tasks
- contriving false explanations to explain work not handed in by the due date
- assisting another student to engage in malpractice
- being absent from a lesson (on the day of the task) before the task in order to prepare for that task.

Students should also note that in order to ensure the integrity of a task, students must not convey any information about the task to students who are yet to sit that task.

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is presenting another person's written or created work or ideas as if they are your own.

If you use another person's work or words without full acknowledgement, you are plagiarising.

Types of Plagiarism

Negligent/unintended plagiarism is classified as:

- using text or artistic works directly from books, journals, databases or the internet, where little or no effort has been made in acknowledging the source
- failing to include reference details when making notes
- leaving out the reference in your assignment by mistake
- incorrectly referencing the material.

Dishonest/intended plagiarism is classified as:

- substantial copying, buying, stealing or borrowing someone else's work in part or in whole, and presenting it as your own by choosing not to provide a reference to show where the original ideas, words or data came from
- inappropriate paraphrasing by changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information without acknowledgement
- submitting work that contains a large contribution from
 - a. another person, such as a parent, tutor or another student, who is not acknowledged
 - b. a software or Artificial Intelligence (AI) program (e.g. ChatGPT, Andi etc) to write or create your work and presenting it as your own
 - c. paying someone to write or prepare material that is associated with a task, such as process diaries, logs or journals.

(See Appendix 1)

Why Does Plagiarism Matter?

It is a breach of Ascham's *Academic Honesty Policy*.

Using another's work as your own is considered stealing and is unethical. Authors/creators own their words and ideas. They are not yours to take. When you research the writings of others, you must acknowledge the fact that you have used them.

It also means that you have failed to complete the learning process. You are not developing the skills and knowledge that are important for your learning development and life ahead.

Strategies to Avoid Plagiarism

By providing the following you are showing where you have found your information; this is necessary because it shows your intention not to plagiarise other people's ideas.

- Use templates and scaffolds for note-making, note-keeping, drafts of work, logbooks etc.
- Write in-text references or footnotes in the body of your work to acknowledge quotations, summaries, paraphrasing and copies.
- Write a reference list.
- Write a bibliography.

You must acknowledge:

- all ideas and work of other persons
- word-for-word quotes
- books, journals, online databases, email messages, electronic media and websites
- sources of all photographs, maps, illustrations, computer programs, data, graphs and audio-visuals
- works of art including music, film, dance, theatre and visual arts
- any source that has provided you with information or inspiration that is relevant to the assessment task.

How is Plagiarism Detected?

Plagiarism is detected:

- through lack of citation and referencing
- through lack of bibliographic depth
- through changes in the tone of writing
- if you've never written like this before
- if assessment tasks are very different in quality from supervised work
- by checking your reference list/bibliography. Teachers are experts in their subject matter and very likely will have used the same sources as you when setting the assessment task. They will be aware of the sources you use
- by searching online for suspected plagiarism, often using plagiarism-detection software
- by asking questions about your research to confirm that you have the indicated level of knowledge.

Roles and Responsibilities Around This Policy

All staff at the School are expected to support this policy and to promote and model good academic practice.

The Director of Curriculum and Learning, and all Heads of Department, will ensure that all students:

- understand what constitutes an authentic piece of work and intellectual property
- receive guidance on study skills, academic writing, how to conduct research and how to acknowledge sources
- understand what constitutes plagiarism and know the consequences of being found guilty of it.

All teachers will:

- confirm that, to the best of their knowledge, all work submitted is the authentic work of the student
- utilise strategies to prevent and detect plagiarism
- design assessment criteria that value and reward the learning process, rather than simply the result
- ensure students are taught how to acknowledge sources.

All students will:

- understand this policy and act according to its principles
- ensure that all work submitted is authentic, with the work or ideas of others fully and correctly acknowledged
- be responsible for their own learning
- utilise proper documentation and citation to credit thoughts, ideas and examples of others and create work that is all their own.

Support for Academic Honesty

At Ascham, students have access to a range of resources that support high standards of academic honesty. These include:

- regular and consistent guidance and instruction in the processes of academic research
- instruction in the use of *The Ascham Guide to Harvard Referencing*

- Year 10 students completing the NESA course 'All My Own Work' in Term 4
- the use of plagiarism software to raise awareness of academic integrity
- the designing of assignments that do not lend themselves to academic dishonesty
- the creation of tasks where students are able to submit and document their research in stages in order to show their progress
- requirements of tasks that provide evidence of the research process, e.g. an annotated bibliography, note-taking scaffolds etc

Students will attend an annual presentation from the Director of Curriculum and Learning or Director of Studies on this policy. To show that they have understood the policy, students will complete and pass a quiz on Canvas.

Consequences of Plagiarism and Malpractice in Years 7–9

Plagiarism

A teacher who identifies negligent or unintended plagiarism may:

- notify the student and ask them to correct their work or make the necessary changes or amend the acknowledgement of sources
- issue a Dalton Extra to show the student has outstanding work
- apply a penalty to the marks for the task.

If the plagiarism is considered to be dishonest or intended, the following will occur:

1. The teacher will notify the Head of Department.
2. The teacher and Head of Department will decide on the appropriate course of action (dependent on level of plagiarism) from these options
 - a. the student is required to resubmit the work AND/OR
 - b. the student to undertake another form of assessment AND/OR
 - c. the plagiarised work will be awarded zero and the student will only receive marks for the non-plagiarised portion AND/OR
 - d. the student's work may not be marked.
3. The teacher will meet with the student to clearly explain why their work has been identified as containing plagiarism.
4. The student will receive a Dalton Extra if the work is to be resubmitted.
5. The teacher will provide the student with a session on how to avoid plagiarism in the future and direct them to the *Academic Honesty Policy | Years 7–9*.

Malpractice

Students involved may initially incur a mark of zero.

The Head of Department in consultation with the Director of Studies will review this penalty prior to Semester reports.

NB: A Semester report may receive a NA grade as a result of academic dishonesty.

Appendix 1

The Plagiarism Spectrum 2.0



The Plagiarism Spectrum 2.0 identifies twelve types of unoriginal work. Familiarity with traditional forms of plagiarism and emerging trends helps students develop original thinking skills and do their best original work.

