

IB Diploma Programme Policy for Academic Honesty

While information and communication technology in the 21st century have made it easier for students to take shortcuts in their education, at Abbotsford Senior Secondary School, the expectation is that every Pre-Diploma and IB student submit assignments and projects that are authentic and are a true representation of the student's academic ability. Thus, we fully support the IBO's strong commitment to academic integrity.

“It is essential that the high expectations of the Diploma Programme are supported with a robust and coherent policy that focuses on education students about what constitutes malpractice and imposes strict sanctions when necessary.” (The Diploma Programme: From principles into practice, 2009, p 12).

This commitment is embedded in IBO policy and philosophy, and is entrenched in the Learner Profile. Therefore, it is our expectation that students inside and outside of the Diploma Programme strive to be:

- Inquirers – who conduct inquiry and research with integrity
- Knowledgeable – who acquire knowledge in an honest and productive manner
- Principled – who act with integrity and take responsibility for their own actions
- Open-minded – who seek and evaluate new knowledge and perspectives
- Risk takers – who are not afraid to stretch themselves and be innovative
- Thinkers – who make balanced and ethical decisions

These practices will ensure that students are getting the most out of their Pre-Diploma and IB experience, and are prepared for the academic expectations of post-secondary institutions. Academic integrity promotes life-long learning, and allows students to think critically while expressing themselves within the learning process.

What is Cheating?

The willful giving or receiving of secretive information, which gives one an academic advantage over other students in the class, unauthorized access to exam materials and/or assignments, use of unapproved technology and/or technological devices and/or websites to complete assignments and/or exams, or purchasing assignments from an outside source or person are but a few examples of inappropriate and dishonest behavior at this school. These examples apply to all assignments, projects, quizzes and exams.

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is when someone else's words, ideas, opinions, or sequence of ideas are presented as your own without proper acknowledgement.

What is Academic Honesty?

- Document quotations, opinions, and all other source material in a formal and appropriate manner
- When paraphrasing, use your own words and opinions.
- Acknowledge any help given by another person.
- Only hand in shared work when explicitly instructed by the teacher.
- Never share or acquire secretive or inappropriate information which gives any academic advantage.
- Follow all exam, project, quiz, and assignment rules.
- If needed, ask your teacher for clarification in applying academic integrity to specific assignments, quizzes, and tests.
- Information and communication technology, that has not been approved, has not been used to complete assignments, projects, or exams.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Clarification and explanation of ethical behavior.
- Clarification and explanation of the extent to which collaboration or group work is permissible within the context of specific assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests.
- Clarification and guidance as to what constitutes plagiarism, and appropriate methods of citing sources.
- Clarification of the strict sanctions that will be imposed should a student or students be involved in a plagiarism or collusion incident.

Abbotsford Senior Secondary School Pre-Diploma and IB Plagiarism Sanctions

Level One: Level One violations will be dealt with by the classroom teacher and the incident will be reported to the IB DP coordinator and school administration. If a student is caught cheating, plagiarizing or involved in collusion, he/she will receive a zero for any assignment or test in question. Depending upon the severity of the incident, additional detention time may be served by the student. Parents will be contacted and the incident will be recorded on the student's permanent record.

Level One incidents include:

- Copying homework
- Copying or attaining secretive information to gain an advantage on a test or quiz
- Letting another student copy one's homework
- Letting another student look off one's test or quiz
- Working with others on an assignment that was meant to be individual
- Taking information from a source that is not properly cited

Level Two: Level Two violations are serious and will be dealt with by the coordinators, administration, and potentially the malpractice branch of the IBO. Students will receive a zero on any assignments or tests in question and may be removed from the IB program. Student will also be assigned extended detention and/or suspension time. Parents will be required to attend a formal meeting in response to all level two violations.

Level Two incidents include:

- Two or more Level One infractions
- Copying papers from the internet, other publications, or other students
- Submitting a computer program that has been developed by another
- Cheating during IB examinations

Level Three: Level Three violations are extreme and will be dealt with by the administration of the school. Students will be immediately removed from the IB programme and may be asked to leave Abbotsford Senior Secondary School.

Level Three violations include:

- Stealing examinations
- Altering grades on a school data base

Note: Parts of this document are modifications of policies currently used by IB Schools around the world. Principal outside sources include Carson Graham Secondary School, Sir Winston Churchill High School, and Rick Hansen Secondary School.