

Academic Honesty and AI in Education – Elementary

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Academic Honesty

Students are reminded as well of the importance of academic honesty. Students must always do their own work. When a student has difficulty with an assignment, the student must ask the teacher for assistance. A student must never copy, intentionally or unintentionally, another person's work nor take the ideas of someone else. This includes the work of other students; of brothers, sisters or parents; and material found on websites and/or in books. Students must not have a tutor complete their work for them.

Plagiarism is a serious offence involving the theft of intellectual property. Plagiarism occurs when someone takes credit for the thoughts, words, ideas, photographs and other images, creative work, and music of another individual or artificial intelligence and presents it as his or her own. There are consequences for those who copy or use another's work without giving acknowledgement through proper referencing and use of a bibliography.

In teaching research skills, it is very important that teacher model and students are taught how to paraphrase and how to acknowledge and cite sources correctly. Students are expected to use research in their assignments by paraphrasing ideas and citing sources for all materials used, including artificial intelligence, non-print materials such as photographs, creative works, and music that are not the student's own. As much as possible, students will complete assignments in class so that the teacher can assist students in developing their paraphrasing skills and proper techniques for citing sources.

The teaching of academic honesty occurs in all grades and the skills taught are age and grade appropriate. These skills include paraphrasing and acknowledging sources. Beginning in the Junior Division, the teaching of paraphrasing and citing sources is part of the teaching of research skills.

As assignments for evaluation are completed in class, teachers monitor student work and assist students in identifying plagiarism and developing their paraphrasing skills and techniques for citing sources. Students make the required changes; teachers provide support as needed. However, in the event of cases of plagiarism on assessments of learning, the following will occur:

Junior Division (Grades 4 to 6)

Plagiarism will result in a progressive series of consequences with the first offence resulting in the assignment not being marked and the assignment redone after the teacher has reviewed with the student what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, and which parts of the assignment have been plagiarized. The assignment will be evaluated without penalty. When plagiarism does occur in Grade 6, the Vice Principal will, on the first offence, be notified by the teacher of the plagiarism.

For the second offence, defined as plagiarism that occurs after the teacher has reviewed what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, the student will be required to redo the assignment, and, for students in Grades 4 and 5, the parents or guardians will be contacted by the teacher, and the Vice Principal notified. For students in Grade 6, the Vice Principal will contact the parents or guardians to arrange a meeting with the student and parents to review the case and plan strategies to avoid future plagiarism.

For the third offence in Grades 4 and 5, a parent meeting will be required to review the case and plan strategies to avoid future plagiarism. The assignment will be redone and evaluated without penalty. In Grade 6, the student will receive an “R” for the assignment and the teacher will notify the Vice Principal who will contact the parents to arrange another meeting to review why the strategies put in place have not worked, to inform the parents of the “R”, and to discuss further consequences should plagiarism continue.

For all subsequent cases of plagiarism in the Junior Division, the student will receive an “R” for the assignment and the teacher will notify the Vice Principal who will contact the parents to arrange another meeting.

Academic Responsibility

Learning is an active process. The teachers provide learning opportunities and support in the classroom, and extra help after school if required.

Students take advantage of these learning opportunities by:

- attending school daily
- participating in class activities to the best of their abilities in every subject every day
- asking questions and seeking assistance when needed
- trying their best all the time
- checking the online learning platform daily and
- participating in on-line, teacher assigned chats
- completing to the best of their abilities all assignments, including homework, on time

Parents and guardians support student learning by:

- supervising homework
- maintaining open communication with their child’s teacher(s)
- discussing concerns with their child’s teacher(s)
- attending Report Card Conferences

Assessment of all learning takes place on an on-going basis in the classroom. Students are reminded to use their class time effectively to complete all assignments in class during the time allotted. Only assignments worked on in class will be assessed. Only that which is completed in the time allotted in class will be assessed.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) In Education

DSC International School supports the ethical and honest use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education and is committed to upholding ethical standards in the utilization of AI tools. When used appropriately, AI tools offer learners and teachers support and can enrich the learning experience. However, there needs to be an agreed-upon limit and ethical and appropriate use. OpenAI programs, including ChatGPT and DaVinci, stipulate that users must be 13 years of age or older. Therefore, to ensure that DSC students follow legal and policy compliance, elementary students are only permitted to use AI tools embedded within school and classroom-approved programs for students under the age of 13. Students must follow the School's Academic Honesty policy and properly reference people, sources, and tools (including AI) that influence the ideas or generate content used. Students will be taught how to use and cite AI tools appropriately in class.