

TUDOR GRANGE ACADEMY KINGSHURST SIXTH FORM

MALPRACTICE AND ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY & PROCEDURE

1 INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism, cheating, collusion and attempting to obtain an unfair academic advantage are forms of academic misconduct and are entirely unacceptable for any student. This policy defines what the Academy means by plagiarism, gives examples of the categories of other forms of unacceptable academic misconduct outside examinations, determines the procedures to be adopted in suspected cases and indicates the academic penalties which may be appropriate in proven cases.

In creating this procedure, the Academy is seeking to maintain the integrity of its academic awards and procedures and to give any students affected a fair opportunity to respond to any allegation of academic misconduct. Each case will be determined on its own facts and merits.

The procedure is for use outside public examinations, where the examining boards' own procedures will apply. It includes Academy-assessed work which contributes towards the final grade awarded for the qualification.

The use of the word "academic" throughout this document is not intended to restrict its application to any particular group of courses and programmes.

2 ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The following are dishonest and therefore unacceptable and not allowed by the Academy:

- Taking someone else's work, images or ideas and passing it off as your own (this is called plagiarism)
- Using the computer, either the internet, or information stored on any device which belongs to someone else, and passing it off as your own.
- Cheating: acting unfairly or dishonestly to gain an advantage
- Secretly agreeing with others to cheat or deceive (this is known as collusion).

Further explanation is included in Appendix 1.

All these are called **academic misconduct**. If a student is discovered or suspected of doing any of the things shown in the list above, the Academy will investigate and may take action against him/her.

Academy will seek to ensure that students are helped to avoid Academic Misconduct. Guidelines of appropriate steps to be taken by staff are given in Appendix 2.

3 PROCEDURES TO BE TAKEN WHEN A CASE OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT IS SUSPECTED

If a minor case is suspected, the unit assessor should inform the relevant Director of Post-16 who will then:

- Discuss the incident with the student in an informal interview and complete an Academic Honesty Incident Report form. This will be filed on the student's records and a copy sent to their parent/carer
- Warn the student about future conduct
- Return work to be re-done and resubmitted for marking
- If this has happened before, refer directly to the Academy Disciplinary Procedure
- Inform the examining body, in line with their procedures
- Inform external examiners/verifiers in line with examining body's procedures

If a moderate or serious case is suspected, the unit assessor should refer the case to the TGAK Post-16 Disciplinary Procedures. All the normal processes of the Post-16 Disciplinary Procedures must be followed, and after appropriate first or second stage disciplinary interviews any or none of the following sanctions may be applied:

- Award a reduced grade in the unit of a maximum 'Pass' grade, or award an 'U' grade (ungraded) for the work, therefore restricting them to an 'ungraded' status for the unit as a whole, limiting their ability to fulfil the qualification.
- Withdraw the right of the student to resubmit work for assessment

- Disqualify the student from the course
- Recommend expulsion of the student from the Academy
- Inform the examining body, in line with their procedures
- Inform external examiners/verifiers, in line with their procedures

4 INVESTIGATION OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

In any case of Academic Misconduct, and especially where the allegation is not admitted by the student, the Post-16 Disciplinary Procedure allows the senior staff involved to suspend the process while additional evidence is checked. In any such situation, it is within the provision of the Post-16 Disciplinary Procedure for the senior staff involved to convene a meeting of other staff to make academic decisions on the allegation, the student's work, other relevant work, or other appropriate evidence. The student should be invited to any such meeting, and has the right to be accompanied by a friend or relative. The possible outcomes of any such investigative meeting are:

- No academic misconduct has taken place, and the procedure ceases
- The student accepts that misconduct has taken place, and the procedure continues
- Without the student's agreement, the senior staff find that academic misconduct has taken place and the Disciplinary Procedure continues.

5 APPEALS

Appeals against decisions made under the Academic Misconduct Procedure may be made as laid down in the Post-16 Disciplinary Procedure.

APPENDIX 1 – DEFINITIONS

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work, words, images, ideas, opinions or discoveries, whether published or not, as one's own, or alternatively appropriating the artwork, images or computer generated work of others, without properly acknowledging the source, with or without their permission.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- Directly copying from written physical, pictorial or written material, without crediting the source.
- Paraphrasing someone else's work, without crediting the source.

Cheating and Collusion

Examples of other forms of academic misconduct (such as cheating, collusion and attempting to obtain an unfair academic advantage) include:

- Getting someone else to produce part or all of the work submitted.
- Colluding with one or more student(s), or other people, to produce a piece of work and submitting it individually as one's own.
- Copying the work of another person, with or without their permission.
- Knowingly allowing another student to copy one's own work.
- Resubmitting one's own previously graded work.
- Using forbidden notes, books or technology in producing assigned work or tests.
- Fabrication of results (including experiments, research, interviews, observations).

APPENDIX 2 – GUIDELINES FOR STAFF TO AVOID ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

To prevent the occurrence of academic misconduct, staff should:

- Inform students clearly of the policy on academic integrity and honesty.
- Include statements on academic misconduct where appropriate in Academy policies and student handbooks.
- Make students aware of the penalties for academic misconduct at the earliest stage of the course.
- Provide students with guidance on the format of formal acknowledgement of source material.
- Inform students, in writing if possible, of the extent to which they can collaborate in coursework.
- Be aware that most students are very computer literate and can scan text and surf the web for model essays, etc, with ease. Ensure that students are adequately supervised when using computers to prevent students from copying or printing out other people's work as part of their own.
- Devise procedures for assessing work in such a way that plagiarism, cheating and collusion are more detectable. These might include: ensuring that coursework assessment is supported by unseen and supervised work under test conditions; changing assignment topics yearly, on at least a three-yearly cycle; making less use of generic assignments in favour of tailored assignments; getting to know the style of students' writing/submissions, early on in the course; comparing subsequent work to initial assessment tests; assessing a class group's coursework on a single occasion, to enhance the likelihood of the assessor spotting plagiarised passages, or other collusion.
- Fully investigate all instances of suspected academic misconduct utilising the proper disciplinary procedures.

