

Wallaceburg Christian School Society - Board Policy Manual

Section: Student Subsection: Plagiarism
Subject: 602-Academic Honesty Effective: June 2010

Academic Honesty Policy

Preamble:

As Wallaceburg Christian School works to equip students with the skills they need for meaningful living, it has a responsibility to address and to correct non-Christian academic behaviours. One such behaviour is that of plagiarism.

Rationale:

Nelson's Write Source 2000, defines plagiarism in the following manner: "Plagiarism is using another writer's ideas or words as if they were your own, without giving credit." (p. 229). Plagiarism tends to occur when a student improperly uses books and other resources to gain information that he or she will use in a project or essay assignment.

Plagiarism includes:

- Direct copying of the work of another submitted as the student's own (for example, from that of another student or other person, from an Internet source, from a print source)
- Lack of parenthetical in-text or in-project documentation
- Documentation that does not check out or does not match Works Cited/Works Consulted page
- Quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing another person's words, sentences, paragraphs, or entire work without acknowledgment of the source
- Utilizing another person's ideas, opinions, or theory without acknowledgment of the source
- Copying another student's written test answer
- Copying or allowing another student to copy a computer file that contains another student's assignment, and submitting it, in part or in its entirety, as one's own
- Working together on an independent assignment or working on an assignment where computer files and programs involved are shared, and then submitting individual copies of the assignment as one's own individual work (for example, labs)

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. By the time students have reached secondary and post-secondary education, they can expect to face serious consequences for committing plagiarism. Like making illegal copies of CDs, plagiarism is a form of theft. From an early age, students should be taught strategies which will help them to use research materials wisely and to avoid plagiarizing their resources. Students need to be coached, encouraged, and taught how to properly use Internet documents, encyclopaedias, and other research materials.

Policy:

Wallaceburg Christian School affirms that plagiarism, the direct copying of someone else's words, is not to be tolerated, especially in the junior and intermediate grades. Copying entire sentences from a source and changing one or two words is NOT the same as putting something

in one's own words. Using the author's words is appropriate when the students properly document them.

It is the teacher's responsibility to make the expectations of the school known to the students and to provide age-appropriate strategies for students to help them to avoid plagiarizing research material. It is the student's responsibility to follow the teacher's instructions and to acknowledge that to plagiarize is to steal ideas or words.

Consequences for plagiarism will vary from grade to grade. Students in junior and intermediate grades can expect significant penalties ranging from reminders, to redoing the assignment, to receiving a zero for the assignment, if deliberate plagiarism is proven. Penalties for plagiarism will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the teacher in consultation with the principal. However, the goal is to help the student understand the importance of giving credit to the work of others to honour them.