

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Awareness, Detection and Prevention

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PLAGIARISM POLICY

St Brendan's College is committed to dealing with plagiarism and any form of unfair advantage taken and will take appropriate measures to deter, detect and discipline as appropriate.

Action will include:

- Implementation of electronic means of plagiarism detection, including the detection of AI chatbot type plagiarism
- Training staff in plagiarism awareness, prevention and detection, including detecting the use of AI chatbot.
- Supporting an ethos of fairness, good citizenship and honesty with rewards
- Informing students of the College position on plagiarism the use of detection aid and the consequences should plagiarism be detected
- Instruction and training for all students during their induction to the College and at pertinent points of their study e.g. at the start of their NEA.
- Raising awareness about what constitutes plagiarism
- Regular review of this policy during a significant period of technological advancement to add to guidance/policy as directed by JCQ/Awarding Bodies

I. Scope

This policy and procedure applies to all internal assessments (inclusive of Non-Examined Assessment) and all internal and external examinations. Where awarding bodies or validating bodies have their own published procedures these will take precedence over the College policy.

Plagiarism occurs when a person uses other people's thoughts, writing or creative work **and presents them as his or her own**, that is without clearly acknowledging the source of the information. It can take several forms, including:

- directly copying another person's work, for example from the internet, a book, another student's assignment; the work may include text, statistics, figures, photographs, pictures, diagrams etc
- paraphrasing another person's work
- cutting and pasting together sections of the work of others into a new whole
- receiving material help from other people while producing an assignment, without express permission or instruction from a teacher.
 - This can also extend to another person writing a part or all of an assessment on behalf of the student with the work being submitted as the students own.
- The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) software to form part or all of a response (without proper referencing and application to own work). Reference here should be paid to Appendix A at the end of this policy (updated Sept 2023)

- 1.1 Plagiarism is a serious breach of discipline and students are responsible for informing themselves about this policy.
- 1.2 The College will make students aware of this policy early in the student's programme of study through drawing attention to this via the induction programme and within the parent/carer handbook. Teachers are also asked to remind their students about this policy at pertinent times of a students' course such as at the start, or during if suspected, of an NEA project or piece of coursework.
- 1.3 If a student lends another student his or her work and the work is subsequently copied, the lender will be deemed to have contributed to the malpractice. This may be true even if the copying is completed without the lender's permission or knowledge.

The following JCQ policies/guidelines underpin all aspects of the College approach to plagiarism and assessment:

- [Information for candidates – coursework - 2022-23](#)
- [Information for candidates – non examined assessment – 2022-23](#)
- [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications](#)

2.0 Procedure to avoid plagiarism: Responsibilities

2.1 Students should:

- quote the source when using others' work, inclusive of all online references
- place any word-for-word, literal quotation in quotation marks
- acknowledge specific help received while producing an assignment, even when this help is gained by simply discussing ideas with a friend or relative; this acknowledgement should be produced in writing either as part of the assignment or, in the case of coursework/non-examined assessment (NEA), on the awarding body's 'candidate authentication statement'.
- quote the source even when the originator's words have been paraphrased rather than directly copied
- not allow other students to borrow their work unless a teacher gives explicit permission for this to happen. If students are in any doubt about what is acceptable or not, they should consult a teacher.
- Make themselves aware of the following two JCQ documents that outlines the guidelines of assessment and important guidance on how to reference their work. These guidelines include the recent introduction of AI technology and its use.

- [Information for candidates – coursework - 2022-23](#)
- [Information for candidates – non examined assessment – 2022-23](#)

Specifically, students must be aware of the requirements to, and method of, reference sources. For clarity and education, the guidance from page 2 [Information for candidates – coursework - 2022-23](#) is copied below:

2.2 Teachers should:

- Incorporate within induction plans, and ahead of the start of any coursework and/or NEA assessment, information about plagiarism.
 - This must include relevant advice about how to avoid it and how to use sources of information, including AI sources, professionally and within the guidelines of JCQ and/or awarding body. Teachers must ensure students have access to and are aware of the following:
 - [Information for candidates – coursework - 2022-23](#)
 - [Information for candidates – non examined assessment – 2022-23](#)
- In the case of coursework/NEA, remind and make students aware, before they undertake the work, that they will be required to sign an authentication statement for the awarding body. Each statement makes clear what students are declaring and the punishments that apply.
- To stress to their students the unethical nature of plagiarism
- To make clear to students the College's policy on plagiarism and the consequences if they fail to comply
- To ensure that students have the knowledge and skills required to enable them to cite and reference appropriately

2.3 Learning Resources Centre (LRC) staff should:

- To encourage appropriate attitudes and practices in students in their use of the LRC facilities
- To offer training and induction to staff and students on how to avoid plagiarism and other forms of cheating
- Raise awareness about what constitutes plagiarism

3.0 Actions to Implement Policy

Where a student is suspected of plagiarism, either by carrying out the act of plagiarism or by allowing it to happen, the following procedures will be followed

- To authenticate that the work submitted by a student for assessment has been carried out by the student, “Turnitin” software will be used. Students will be advised, for example in the course handbook or assessment guidance, which work must be submitted via “Turnitin” and the procedures to be followed.
 - As of April 2023, Turnitin Originality software includes AI detection software to alert staff to likely AI material found within student submission.
 - The determination of whether cheating, plagiarism or other forms of unfair advantage has occurred should be investigated internally first and at the earliest opportunity
 - In all cases, the consequences associated with plagiarism will follow the guidance laid out by JCQ and/or the Awarding body in the first instance. This can involve disqualification “from at least the subject concerned”, scoring zero marks for the assessment concerned and/or specific consequences related to Applied General qualifications. Furthermore, the College reserves the right to impose its own sanctions consistent with the College’s Positive Behaviour Management Policy
 - Reports of plagiarism to exam boards should follow the exam boards procedures and it is for the examination board to judge the seriousness of the case and appropriate action.
 - Reports to Awarding Bodies only take place in the instance that authenticating signatures have been signed by the student.
 - In the first instance, the College seeks to pro-actively prevent plagiarism through the use of detection tools ahead of submission, thus providing chance to educate students and help them make better choices.
 - Each case will be considered on the basis of the strength of evidence.
- 3.1 For internally assessed work, where the marks do not contribute to a student’s final qualification, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the College’s Positive Behaviour Management Policy, following the procedure in 3.3 onwards.
- 3.2 For coursework, where marks do contribute to a student’s final qualification, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the College/s Positive Behaviour Management Policy **and** in line with JCQ &

Awarding Body requirements.

3.3 **Where the teacher marking the work suspects the presence of plagiarism** within a student's submitted work they will:

- Alert a fellow colleague, in the case where there is more than one teacher on the course, who should independently moderate the work and themselves determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not.
- In the case of plagiarism being found and/or there being just one teacher on the programme, the Curriculum Cluster Leader/Director of faculty must be advised at the earliest opportunity.
- Write a brief statement of the assessment they have made of the work, including with it any materials related to the suspected plagiarism. This should include the Turnitin report associated with this work.
- Record the investigation as a 'Behaviour Intervention' note on the students comments page in Pro-Monitor. In the case of Applied Courses and/or NEA assessment, it may be appropriate to also add a HELP comment so that members of the leadership team are aware of the issue and can advise if necessary.
 - It is imperative that the Curriculum Cluster Leader / DoF is informed in person and 'FAO' to the note to ensure no delay to the next stages of the process.
 - The Head of Pedagogy (HoPPI) and Exams Team must also be advised to ensure support to investigating officers is provided.

3.3.1 **The Curriculum Cluster leader or Director of Faculty will:**

- Make contact with the parent/carer to alert them to the concern that has been raised and outline the investigation that will now take place.
- Interview the student, preferably with another member of staff present and with notes to be taken, to put the evidence before them of the suspected plagiarism as defined in 2.1 above (where two or more students are suspected of plagiarism, this initial interview should be conducted separately for each student)
- Ask the student to sign a statement regarding their explanation of the plagiarism identified
- Where the plagiarism, as defined in 2.1 above, is confirmed and uncontested by the student in their signed statement, the Curriculum Cluster Leader or DoF will decide on appropriate follow-up action.

- If the student has, by this stage, signed the coursework/NEA authentication form, the awarding body will automatically be informed of the malpractice (for A-Level subjects) if and as required.
 - The CCL/DoF must inform the exams team and HoPPI of this update and need to contact the awarding body.
 - The Head of Centre will also be advised.
- The Curriculum Cluster Leader/Director of Faculty will, with support from the Exams Officer, complete the relevant JCQ/Awarding Body malpractice report which will be submitted as required along with a copy of the student's statement and any accompanying materials.
- Where the plagiarism, as defined in 2.1 above, is denied by the student, the student must be given the time & opportunity to provide any evidence to support their case. This should be a maximum of 5 working days, or time appropriate to any impending awarding body deadlines.
- Following interviews with the student(s), any staff members and collection of the work, the Curriculum Cluster Leader/DoF should review all evidence (which must include a copy of the Turnitin report) and make a decision.
- Report the findings to the student(s) and agree next actions.
 - In the case that a student continued to deny the plagiarism they must be made aware of their right to appeal.
 - All appeals must be made in writing to the Vice Principal Curriculum & Quality within ten working days.
- Complete a report of the incident, their findings and agreed actions under the initial comment on Pro-Monitor submitting all notes to the students' Uploaded Documents area on Pro-Monitor.
- A letter must be sent to parent/carers to confirm the outcome of the investigation and agreed consequences and actions. This letter must also include the notice of the student's right to appeal and the procedure for this.

3.4 Upon receipt of an appeal, a meeting will be held between one of the Vice Principals and student to discuss the evidence.

- i) If the Vice Principal decides, during this meeting, that there is no case to answer, no further action will be taken.
- ii) If the student admits to plagiarism during this meeting, action will be taken by the Vice Principal in accordance with the above, and a revised signed statement will be produced by the student.

- iii) If, at the end of the meeting, the positions of the College and the student remain unchanged, further action will be taken in accordance with below.
- iv) A written record will be made of this meeting with notes and documents all stored on Pro-Monitor.

3.4.1 The written record of the meeting referred to in 3.4 above will be copied to the student and academic mentor. The parent(s) will be informed that an investigation, as outlined below, is underway and will also receive a copy of the written record of the meeting.

3.4.2 If the positions of the College and the student remain unchanged, the Examinations Officer will advise the Vice Principal in relation to the awarding body's regulations.

3.4.3 The Vice Principal will decide on appropriate follow-up action. If this action includes a report to the awarding body, the report will include a copy of the student's statement denying the suspected plagiarism.

3.4.4 The Vice Principal will meet with the student, his or her parent(s) and, if appropriate, the curriculum cluster leader/director of faculty to explain the outcome of the investigation and what action, if any, is to be taken. If the action to be taken is not in accordance with the stated position of the student, he or she will be informed about his or her right to seek resolution via the College's Compliments and Complaints Policy. If appropriate, a copy of the Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedures will be handed to the student at the meeting. The student will also be advised of the information available on the JCQ website in relation to appeals against internal assessment decisions.

3.4.5 A written record of this meeting, together with a copy of the malpractice report, if such a report is submitted, will be sent to the student and parent(s) and a copy will be kept on the student's file.

3.4.6 All documentation arising from the investigation will be uploaded to the students Individual Learning Plan on Pro-Monitor.

4.0. Students' Disciplinary and Right of Appeal

The College Positive Behaviour Management policy lists "cheating in exams or plagiarism" as potential gross misconduct, which will result in disciplinary action and may even lead to exclusion from the College. In the case of cheating in examinations, the College will notify the examining body through the official means in accordance with their rubric. For other cases of plagiarism, the College will adopt a no tolerance approach and will apply sanctions according to the severity of the case.

The student has a right of appeal against the decision of the College, as laid out in 3.3 and 3.4 above and/or the Examination Board in accordance with the appeals procedures.

5.0. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Vice Principal, supported by Head of Pedagogy, Professional Development & Innovation, will:

- Collect, monitor, review and evaluate data pertaining to plagiarism and cheating.
- Receive termly reports on appeals received and their outcomes.
- Produce an annual report and trend data over several years, where available.

Linked Policies:

- Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy
- Compliments, Concerns & Complaints Policy
- Positive Behaviour Management Policy

Linked Documents:

- Student Induction Documents (produced annually)
- Parents'/Carers Handbook

Appendix A:

Statement regarding use of AI in assessed work

Whilst the following text can be found within the main body of this policy and through the hyperlinks, the College seeks to provide absolute clarity on the position around the use of AI tools to generate written work that is subsequently passed off as one's own.

Students should be aware that using Chat GPT or similar AI tools to generate written work that the student passes off as their own work would constitute plagiarism. As stated by JCQ, "Examples of AI misuse include, but are not limited to, the following:

- copying or paraphrasing sections of AI-generated content so that the work is no longer the student's own
- copying or paraphrasing whole responses of AI-generated content
- using AI to complete parts of the assessment so that the work does not reflect the student's own work, analysis, evaluation or calculations
- failing to acknowledge use of AI tools when they have been used as a source of information
- incomplete or poor acknowledgement of AI tools submitting work with intentionally incomplete or misleading references or bibliographies." (Source: 'AI Use in Assessments: Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications, Guidance for Teachers & Assessors, March 2023)

Teachers and external markers will reserve the right to use software developed to check written work for the use of such AI tools.

Students should be aware of the risks and limitations of online AI tools such as Chat GPT even when simply using them for research. These tools are language generators that use an algorithm to analyse the statistical likelihood of the language selected being an appropriate response to a question posed. Such tools may return responses which are incorrect even though they appear convincing. If asked to look for references on a topic, they may very well return results which do not exist in reality. Where a teacher or external marker or moderator discovers that references and research have been generated using such a tool and are not genuine, this would constitute an offence of plagiarism under this policy

Where ChatGPT or other AI tools have been used by students to generate content, or as part of a planning or creative process, this should be acknowledged and referenced as a conversation with a third party might be, and the search term used to generate the response should be included as part of this referencing. For example: ChatGPT 3.5 (<https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/>), 11/07/2023. The student must, retain a copy of the question(s) and computer-generated content for reference and authentication purposes, in a non-editable format (such as a screenshot) and provide a brief explanation of how it has been used. This must be submitted with the work, so the teacher/assessor is able to review the work, the AI-generated content and how it has been used.

Where a student is at all unsure about whether their use of ChatGPT or other AI tools would be acceptable in producing work, they should speak to their subject teacher(s) and, in the case of NEA, refer to the **JCQ document 'AI Use in Assessments : Protecting the Integrity of Qualifications'** available on the JCQ website and linked both here and within this policy. <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/malpractice/artificial-intelligence/>

APPENDIX B: Academic Honesty Poster (student version)

Academic Honesty



The 'Do's' and 'Don'ts' of writing coursework/Non-Examined Assessment Work

Coursework and/or controlled assessments are a crucial part of many courses here at the College.

This document tells you about some things that you **must** and **must not** do when you are completing coursework/NEAs.

When you submit each piece of work you will sign an authentication statement confirming that you have followed these rules, so it is important you understand them. Failing to follow these rules will constitute plagiarism/cheating and is treated very seriously.

Unsure? Check with your teacher.

 MUST	 MUST NOT
Place quotation (" ") marks around any passage of text you have used from somewhere else.	Copy from someone else or allow another student to copy from you.
Reference where any wording used from another source has come from e.g. (Morrison, 2000, p29).	Ask a friend or parent/carer for direct advice on what should or should not be included. <i>They may support you with accessing and discussing resources about the coursework, but no more than this.</i>
If material is taken from the internet, your reference should show the date when the material was downloaded <u>and</u> must show the precise webpage. For example: BBC ON THIS DAY 20 1962: US spaceman orbits Earth downloaded 18 April 2023.	Ask a friend, classmate, peer, parent/carer or other family member to help you write the coursework, or indeed to allow them to write it for you.
Add a bibliography to your work whenever you use sources.	Share your work with others, even if just for them to look at. <i>If they use any or all of your work, you will be as guilty of plagiarism as they are.</i>
Meet the deadlines set by your teacher.	Pass off others' work (<i>including AI responses</i> to questions) as your own.
Keep your coursework secure and confidential so that no-one else can gain access to it and copy.	Be tempted to use pre-prepared online solutions/answers.
If writing as a group, you must each write up your own account even if the data/initial work was drawn up together, the description of the process and conclusions must be in your own words.	Write inappropriate, offensive or obscene material.
Remember the College uses detection equipment to look out for and identify plagiarised work.	Think you will not be caught; there are many ways to detect plagiarism and the consequences are very serious.
Sign and submit an authentication statement, confirming the work you have submitted is your own.	