

2026



Al Zahra College

PYP Academic Integrity Policy

Reviewed March 2026





Rationale

Al Zahra College supports and promotes the principles of appropriately conducted academic research and the importance of integrity in all forms of assessment. As an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, Al Zahra College recognises the International Baccalaureate Organisation's emphasis on ethical behaviour as an essential component of teaching and learning. The school values the concept of intellectual property and is committed to ensuring that students understand their responsibility to use the ideas and words of others ethically. Academic integrity is embedded within the culture of the school and reflects a commitment to developing principled learners who act with honesty, respect and responsibility in all academic contexts.

Purpose

The creation of a culture of honesty and integrity is central to the purpose of Al Zahra College in developing "ethical future path makers." This commitment is underpinned by the school's character ideals of honesty, trustworthiness, respect and responsibility. The presentation of authentic work is essential to effective scholarship and meaningful learning. This policy outlines the expectations for honest academic practice among students and clarifies the responsibilities of staff in developing and promoting academic integrity.

Alignment with the IB Learner Profile

This policy supports students in developing the attributes of the IB Learner Profile by encouraging them to become Principled learners who act with integrity, honesty and a strong sense of fairness; Reflective learners who thoughtfully consider their choices, actions and consequences; Thinkers who apply critical and creative thinking to make informed and ethical decisions; Inquirers who research responsibly with curiosity and independence; and Caring individuals who show empathy, respect and appreciation for the ideas, efforts and intellectual property of others.

Principles of Academic Integrity

Academic integrity at Al Zahra College is guided by five key principles: honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Honesty ensures that students present their work truthfully and authentically, while trust builds confidence within the learning community. Fairness ensures that all students are assessed equitably, and respect recognises the intellectual contributions of others. Responsibility encourages students to take ownership of their learning and actions.



Rights and Responsibilities

All members of the Al Zahra College community share responsibility for upholding academic integrity. Students have the right to be supported in developing the skills necessary for ethical learning, and they are responsible for producing original work and acknowledging sources appropriately. Teachers model integrity, explicitly teach research and referencing skills, and design assessments that promote authentic work. School leadership ensures the implementation and regular review of this policy, while parents support the development of ethical practices at home.

Good Practice

Good academic practice involves producing authentic work, collaborating appropriately and using information responsibly. Students are expected to acknowledge all sources, including books, digital media, images and ideas, in ways that are developmentally appropriate. As students progress through the PYP, they build research skills such as note-taking, paraphrasing and referencing.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct occurs when a student engages in dishonest or unethical academic behaviour. This includes plagiarism, collusion, copying, fabrication and misrepresentation of work, including misuse of digital tools or artificial intelligence. Clearly identifying these behaviours helps students understand the difference between appropriate and inappropriate practices.

Actions in Case of Misconduct

When academic misconduct occurs, the response at Al Zahra College is educational and age-appropriate, with a focus on growth and understanding. Students are supported through discussion, guidance and opportunities to correct their work, while repeated or serious instances involve parent communication, documentation and leadership support.

Teaching and Learning Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is explicitly taught throughout the PYP as part of the learning process. Teachers integrate research skills, ethical use of information and age-appropriate citation practices into classroom learning. Students are guided in acknowledging sources and understanding the importance of producing authentic work. Teachers engage students in discussions about integrity and the value of original work.



Support Structures and Resources

Al Zahra College provides a range of support structures to ensure the effective implementation of this policy, including access to library resources, digital tools and clear referencing guidelines. Teachers are supported through professional learning, and students are provided with scaffolds such as research frameworks and visual aids.

Monitoring and Review

The academic integrity policy is regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with IB standards. Feedback from students, staff and parents informs ongoing improvements, and incidents of misconduct are analysed to guide future practice.

Communication

This policy is clearly communicated to all members of the Al Zahra College community through staff training, classroom discussions and parent engagement. Ongoing communication ensures a shared understanding of expectations and reinforces the importance of academic integrity as part of the school culture.

References:

International Baccalaureate Organization. (2020). *Programme standards and practices*. International Baccalaureate Organization.