“Academic honesty is a set of values that promotes personal integrity and good practice in learning and assessment” (International Baccalaureate Organization 2008, p 101, MYP From Principles into Practice, p 101.)

The Norwood Morialta High School Cluster core values include Distinction, Diversity, Creativity, Responsibility and Respect promotes excellence and achievement in a supportive school environment. With these core values in mind, students and teachers in the NMHS Cluster use information and ideas from a diverse range of sources. Information and ideas should be used in a way that encourages the Cluster Community to be principled inquirers and reflective communicators by acknowledging and appropriately referencing others’ ideas and work.

The NMHS Cluster is committed to providing the tools and skills to support academic honesty. We do this by supporting the Community to understand that academic honesty is a combination of social skills, personal skills and technical skills. (International Baccalaureate Organization 2008, p 8) (MYP From Principles into Practice, p 102. Figure 17.)

The academically honest student:

• seeks out relevant ideas from others and acknowledges author ownership.
• presents work using personal voice.
• understands how to reference correctly and create a bibliography.
• does not allow their own work to be copied/used by others.

Specifically how does the Cluster support students to be academically honest?

Throughout their education at NMHS Cluster schools students are continually made aware that correct referencing is expected and plagiarism is not acceptable.

Students in years 1 and 2, with support of classroom teachers, Resource Centre staff, resource based learning programmes and parents are:

• made aware of what it means to be academically honest.
• taught what plagiarism is and the skills of academic honesty.
• explicitly taught how to identify sources and provide an accurate bibliography.
• sign an Academic Honesty Agreement that is written in student friendly language.
Students in year 3, through the Resource Centre orientation/resource based learning programme, are:

- made aware of The Norwood Morialta High School’s Academic Honesty Policy.
- taught what plagiarism is and taught how to avoid plagiarism.
- taught how to identify sources and provide an effective Bibliography.
- introduced to referencing their sources using an in text system.

Students in year 4 through a range of learning areas and with the support of their teachers as well as Resource Centre staff are:

- reminded of the school’s Academic Honesty Policy.
- taught what plagiarism is and taught how to avoid plagiarism.
- instructed in the use of in text referencing.
- instructed in effectively using EBSCO online database suite.

Students in year 5, through a range of learning areas and the Personal Project, with the support of their teachers as well as Resource Centre staff are:

- expected to understand and adhere to the school’s Academic Honesty Policy.
- expected to cite all sources and use in text referencing.
- instructed in and gain experience in referencing various resources using the Bibliography framework, School Library Association of South Australia’s Reference Generator and the Word 2007 Citations and Bibliography tool.

Senior school students are taught correct referencing techniques in their individual subject areas especially in the initial stages of their Research Project. They complete the All My Own Work modules through a licensing agreement with the NSW Board of Studies. ‘This course is designed to help students to follow the principles and practices of good scholarship. This includes understanding and valuing ethical practices when locating and using information’. Board of Studies NSW (2006)

Students are encouraged to use the EBSCO - Australian and New Zealand Reference Centre online database. This online database shows students how to reference the article they are using correctly. The SACE Board referencing guidelines are also displayed in the Resource Centre. Students are encouraged to refer to these.

Through eNMHS students have access to the School Library Association of South Australia (SLASA) Referencing Generator which generates citations for all types of sources.

Turn It In is also another tool used to detect plagiarism.

If students are found to be not adhering to the school’s academic honesty policy there are a range of consequences depending on the year level and the nature of the infringement.

References