

ETHICAL PRACTICE

WARNING TO SCHOOL HEADS, DIPLOMA PROGRAMME COORDINATORS AND DIPLOMA PROGRAMME SUBJECT TEACHERS

Our IB learner profile states:

Principled: They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of individuals, groups and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and consequences that accompany them

The IB is increasingly aware of **websites** advertising services of “help” to students that include:

- providing guidance and support for extended essay writing and theory of knowledge essays
- Providing guidance and support for the completion of internal assessment components in different subjects

The IB does not endorse **any** of these sites. Furthermore students who use them may well be violating the code of ethical practice.

In addition to informing students about the need to acknowledge the ideas or work of another person, it is recommended that coordinators warn students against using the growing number of **individuals and organizations** that claim to offer “help” with IB assessment tasks. **None** of these is endorsed by the IB; some are virtually indistinguishable from sites on the Internet that offer bespoke assignments, usually for a fee, for students’ use.

Some sources of support may be acting in good faith, but nevertheless are offering a level of support and guidance that is not permitted by the IB. The level and kind of guidance permitted by the IB for any subject is outlined in the appropriate IB guide.

While students may work with or consult external sources, it remains the responsibility of the supervisor or teacher within the school to ensure that the guidelines described in the guides are applied. The supervisor or teacher also has to sign the cover sheets indicating that, to the best of their knowledge, it is the **authentic work of the student**.

Failure to comply with this requirement will result in no grade being awarded for the subject concerned.

If a coordinator is in any doubt as to what is permitted, please contact the coordinator help desk for advice (help@ibo.org).