

# BRYANSTON

## DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

---

This document refers to all Digital communications (including phones, computers, digital cameras, PDAs, gaming machines, Playstations, etc).

### **1 General Principles**

- Please also note that a breach of common sense or courtesy is a breach of school rules and a breach of the law of the land is a serious breach of school rules.
- Bringing the school and the school's name into disrepute is a serious breach of school rules.
- Pupils are also subject to School Rules and general expectations of decent behaviour when using digital communication, as much as they would be at any other time or place.
- Please note that, in all matters relating to digital communication, pupils need to have respect for other people and their feelings and also for their privacy.

### **2 Specific Issues**

- Any attempt to interfere with the school's IT system (e.g. hacking) is unacceptable.
- No device or service may be connected to the school network without permission from the Director of Technology.
- Computer passwords should not be shared with anyone else. If this does take place and if other people gain access to a pupil's files, consequences may follow. Specifically, the pupil may be held responsible for any attempt to access barred websites.
- Receiving inappropriate material may not be your fault, but storing it on your device certainly is, and sending it on to other people is even more so.
- When communicating on the Internet, please note you do not necessarily know the identity of the person or persons with whom you are communicating. You should not assume the person with whom you are communicating is who they say they are.
- Please note that all pupils are, of course, subject to the school's Anti-Bullying Policy at all times and that expectations in relation to your behaviour should be no different in relation to behaviour involving digital communication, i.e. cyberbullying is bullying and the fact that you may not be able to see the person with whom you are communicating makes no difference. Please also refer to the school's Cyberbullying Policy. Clearly, the content of any communication has to be judged on its own merits; additional factors which may make any communication more unacceptable may include factors such as frequency of communication (e.g. the repeated sending of an email or a text), the time of day the communication is sent (e.g. the middle of the night is likely to aggravate the issue) and how well you know the person. Bad language and rumour mongering are likely to be aggravating features of any communication. Please also refer to the school's Youth Involved Sexual Imagery Policy and the Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy.
- You should not distribute any image of a person without the person's consent and, in addition, there are sensitive places (e.g. in bedrooms within boarding accommodation), where it is not appropriate to take pictures at any time.
- Please note that once an image has been sent, either by mobile phone or outside the school's email system, it cannot be retrieved and may, therefore, be circulated to others in any part of the world without any chance of retrieval.

This document should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

Bryanston School Rules and Regulations

Bryanston School Behaviour Policy

Bryanston School Anti-Bullying Policy

Bryanston School Policy on Cyberbullying

Bryanston School Youth Involved Sexual Imagery Policy

Bryanston School Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy

Bryanston School Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Procedures

Reviewed: September 2018  
Reviewer: Second Master, Head of Pastoral and Housemasters/Housemistresses  
Next Review: September 2019  
Author: Second Master

