All policies carrying the Bryanston logo apply to any other brands or operations of Bryanston including Bryanston Prep

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

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This document refers to all Digital communications (including phones, computers, wearable technology, digital cameras, PDAs, games consoles etc).

General Principles

A breach of common sense or courtesy is a breach of the school rules and a breach of the law of the land is a serious breach of the school rules.

Bringing the School and the School's name into disrepute is a serious breach of the 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.

In all matters relating to digital communication, pupils need to have respect for other people and their feelings and also for their privacy.

Specific Issues

- Any attempt to interfere with the School's IT system (e.g. hacking or any attempt to bypass the School system by the use of VPN) is unacceptable.
- No device or service may be connected to the school network without permission from the Head of Cyber Security & Systems.
- Password for any electronic device 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 serious.
- When communicating on the Internet, 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. Likewise, not all information on the internet is true and as such you should make sure you are not passing on fake news, conspiracy theories etc. by verifying the source.

- All pupils are 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 refer to the School's Cyberbullying Policy which is now incorporated within the Digital Online Safety and 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 known the person.
- Bad language and rumour-mongering are likely to be aggravating features of any communication. Please also refer to the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Procedures and the Child-on-Child Abuse Policy.
- You should not distribute any image of a person without the person's consent, consent can be withdrawn at any time by the other person, and, in addition, there are sensitive places (e.g. in bedrooms with 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.
- No pupil may initiate the recording of any online lessons/meetings or chats either through built in software or via screen capture tools. This includes other recording devices such as phones or tablets and cameras. Any recording of lessons will be provided as deemed necessary by the member of staff conducting the lesson.

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

- Bryanston School Rules and Regulations
- Bryanston School Relationships and Behaviour Policy
- Bryanston School Anti-Bullying Policy
- Bryanston School Digital Online Safety and Cyberbullying Policy
- Bryanston School Child-on-Child Abuse Policy
- Bryanston School Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Procedures
- Bryanston School Boarding Policy