



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

## **A STATEMENT OF BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE**

### **FROM THE HEAD**

At Bryanston, the development of the individual and community are complementary. Life in the boarding community encourages pupils to become mature, caring and responsible adults who develop the key skills of tolerance, compassion, understanding and respect for others. Kindness is at the heart of everything we do and is a core aim of the School. Boarders face challenges confidently and work together well, acknowledging differences and respecting each other's contributions to life in the House. Their academic needs are met and they are provided with facilities for private study. Boarding helps pupils develop friendships that will be sustained and be sustaining in life beyond school.

In the senior school, all pupils, both day and boarding, are a member of one of our 12 boarding houses.

Day pupils are fully integrated and involved in those houses and allocated a work space within their house. The length of the school day also ensures that day pupils are able to enjoy the same levels of support, development opportunities and facilities as boarders. Bryanston offers full boarding with some flexibility built in, with a mixture of whole-school weekends and open weekends. Whole-school weekends will have a focus for all pupils, for example charity events or inter-house competitions, and are an opportunity for pupils to interact and to work together, developing a sense of community in the school. The opportunity to live and work alongside pupils from varied backgrounds and countries is a genuine privilege. On open weekends pupils are able to go home once they have fulfilled their commitments, although many pupils remain in school and take advantage of the School's facilities. On open weekends, activities are still put on for pupils to take part in, including cinema trips and cookery evenings.

At Bryanston, we provide a warm, secure and beautiful environment in which to live and to learn, for all our pupils. We aim to ensure our pastoral system delivers real care and that pupils know to whom they can turn for support of a varied type. Each house is headed by a houseparent who takes a close interest in every pupil's general progress and welfare. Together with the tutor (with whom pupils will have a one-to-one tutorial at least once a week), the houseparent is at the heart of the pastoral care and they nurture the interests of each pupil. All houseparent's are supported in the House by a deputy houseparent, a matron, and a house team (made up of teaching staff) who help to supervise prep and bedtimes, as well as pupil heads of house and other house prefects. The pupils also have access to the school chaplain, who is resident on the site, the staff in the medical centre and school counsellors.

There are separate boarding houses for boys and girls. All first-year boys go into one of two junior houses where they find their feet among their peer group and settle into the School before moving to one of the five senior boys' houses for their remaining four years. Girls are



in the same house throughout their time in the School, the two systems being designed in the light of experience.

While each house has a social area and small kitchens for making hot drinks and snacks, there are central areas for pupils to socialise and main meals are taken in the central dining hall, enabling pupils to develop relationships outside their house. Boarding houses at Bryanston do not encourage the cliques and intense tribal loyalties that sometimes exist in schools whose social arrangements are based on a strong, inward-looking house tradition. Bryanston is essentially a living community working together rather than a federation of separate houses. The allocation of pupils to houses is done by the Head, who seeks, amongst other things, to ensure an appropriate distribution of talents, attributes and interests.

Parental involvement and contact with the School is encouraged and the School strongly believes in a sense of partnership with parents. Houseparents and tutors are available to deal with issues as they arise and to provide support as appropriate. In addition, parents have access to the eChart, which provides an individual record of a pupil's academic progress, including any comments from teachers, tutor, houseparent and the pupil.

Bryanston School values individuals and recognises the importance of having a broad range of pupils and rejoices in this diversity. The breadth of interests, talents and backgrounds of our pupils is a part of what makes Bryanston what it is. The School is committed to ensuring that all of its activities are governed by principles of equality of opportunity and that all the pupils are encouraged to achieve their full potential and that no pupil faces discrimination.

A good boarding school offers a support structure which gives great strength to the individuals who live in its community, in good times and bad. We strive to develop a sense of the duty of service to others and to encourage the individual to play his or her part in the community, while remaining very much an individual. Our aim is that Bryanstonians will leave us as well-rounded individuals, ready to go out into the wider world, to lead happy and fulfilling lives and to contribute, creatively, positively and generously. Much of this is done through being a loving community. The school has always described the pupils, past and present, staff, past and present, governors, past and present, and parents, past and present, as the Bryanston family. The School is home to its family; the model is intended to be a real one.

### Bryanston Prep

At Bryanston Prep, we are committed to providing a warm and nurturing boarding experience for pupils aged 7-12 years. Our roots trace back to the founding Heads of Knighton House School, who envisioned a boarding school that would be a true home away from home, where pastoral care is at the core of our ethos. As we embrace the demands of 21<sup>st</sup> century life, we remain dedicated to upholding this tradition, ensuring that Bryanston Prep is a place where every pupil feels happy, safe, faces challenges with confidence, acknowledge difference, and celebrates each other's contributions to the vibrant school life. At Bryanston Prep we also encourage students to develop into mature, compassionate, and responsible young adults, equipping them for their educational journey and beyond.



In the Prep School, boarding students whether they're full-time, weekly, or flexi belong to Booker House. All boarders are fully integrated into boarding life and are allocated a bed, workspace, and an area for personalising their dormitory. The school day's length ensures that our day and boarding pupils receive the same level of academic and pastoral support, and access to facilities. At Bryanston Prep we offer a mix of whole-school weekends and open weekends. Whole-school weekends focus on activities, such as our Saturday morning programme, inter-house competitions, charity events, off-site trips, and building a sense of community between day and boarding pupils. During open weekends, students can return home, however, many decide to remain at school and take advantage of seeing friends, activities including cinema/shopping trips, laser tag, and cookery evenings.

Bryanston Prep has an effective pastoral system, ensuring that our students know where to turn for support. Our boarding house is led by our joint houseparent's who provide a family feel to boarding and monitor the general progress and well-being of every student. For pupils in Upper Prep (Yrs. 6-8) a one-to-one tutor is provided alongside their form tutor. One-to-One tutors arrange tutorials with their pupils at least once a week to check on their academic progress and well-being. Boarding at Bryanston Prep also comprises of a Matron, two Graduate Residents, GAP Assistant, and prep staff. Additionally, our Head of House and Deputy Head of House assist in maintaining a positive and family feel house environment. Students also have access to the school chaplain (Fridays), medical centre staff and school counsellors.

Bryanston Prep has one mixed sex boarding house which is separated into boys' and girls' dormitories via an alarmed door at night. Our boarding accommodation is in the Main House, with dormitories designed to accommodate between four to six pupils. All pupils enjoy cosy dorms with bunk beds, thoughtfully grouped according to academic year and taking friendship dynamics into account. Pupils are encouraged to personalise their spaces with photos, posters etc. They also have a dedicated "tuck box" to store snacks which is safely stored in the tuck cupboard. Our boarding facilities include a common room for all year groups which includes a small kitchen for hot drinks, snacks such as toast, a social area for playing games and watching TV. All main meals are served in the dining hall. This arrangement allows day and boarding pupils to have breakfast (breakfast club) and lunch together, discouraging cliques.

Effective communication among parents, pupils, houseparent's, one-to-one tutors, and teachers is crucial to maintaining the high standard of pastoral care we offer. Parents can reach the houseparents through email and a dedicated phone line. Parents also have access to the eChart, which provides individual records of a student's academic progress, including comments from the teacher, one-to-one tutor, and houseparents. Full boarders may have mobile phones, which are securely held by the houseparents and distributed on designated evenings and weekends.

At Bryanston prep, we celebrate individuality and embrace diversity. Pupils are encouraged to recognise and respect uniqueness of others, accommodating their diverse religious, cultural, and language needs. Friendships forged here often last a lifetime. Our Bryanston prep family holds dear the values of respect, integrity, service, and compassion. Within our nurturing environment, children flourish and prepare for the next stage of their educational journey with confidence and excitement. As they move on to their senior



school and beyond, our pupils carry with them the values and experienced gained at Bryanston Prep, helping them become confident, independent, responsible, and compassionate young individuals.

Head  
September 2023