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Bryanston Prep

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

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Reviewer:	Head (Snr & Prep School)
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### **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, every pupil, both boarding and day, is a member of one of our twelve boarding houses. Day pupils are, therefore, fully integrated and involved in their house and are able to enjoy the same levels of support, development opportunities and facilities as the boarding pupils. Most day pupils choose to have a bed in their boarding house that they use each week and on some weekends. 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 and socialise, thereby 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 off-site trips and cookery evenings and quiz nights.

At Bryanston, we provide a warm, secure and beautiful environment for all our pupils in which to live and to learn. 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 House Parent who takes a close interest in every pupil's general progress and welfare. Together with the Tutor, with whom every pupil has a one-to-one tutorial at least once a week, the House Parent is at the heart of the pastoral care and they nurture the interests of each pupil. All House Parents are supported in the House by a Deputy House Parent, a



resident teacher, a matron, and a house team (made up of teaching staff) who help to supervise prep and bedtimes, as well as pupil leadership teams within the House. The pupils also have access to the School Chaplain, who is resident on the site, the specialist staff in the Medical Centre, the school counsellors and the Independent Listener.

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.

Every house has a social area and kitchens for making hot drinks and snacks, there are also central areas for pupils to socialise. 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. House Parents and Tutors are available to answer any query and to deal with issues as they arise, providing unbounded support to the pupil. In addition, parents have access to the eChart, which provides an individual record of a pupil's academic progress, including any comments from teachers or Tutors.

Bryanston School values pupils as individuals, 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 their 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.

Head  
September 2024



## **BRYANSTON PREP**

At Bryanston Prep, we are committed to providing a warm and nurturing boarding experience for pupils aged 7-13 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, acknowledges difference, and celebrates each other's contributions to the vibrant school life. At Bryanston Prep we also encourage pupils to develop into mature, compassionate, and responsible young adults, equipping them for their educational journey and beyond.

In the Prep School boarding pupils, whether they are full-time, weekly, or flexi, belong to Booker House. Booker House is led by joint House Parents who provide a family feel to boarding and monitor the general progress and well-being of every student. The House Parents are supported by a Matron, a resident teacher, two graduate residents and prep staff. Additionally, our Head of House and Deputy Head of House assist in maintaining a positive and family feel house environment.

All boarding 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 and posters. Our boarding facilities include a common room for all year groups, which includes a small kitchen for hot drinks and snacks and a social area for chatting, relaxing, playing games and watching TV. All main meals are served in the dining hall. This arrangement allows boarding and day pupils to have breakfast and lunch together, further enhancing the community feel.

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, pupils can return home. However, many decide to remain at school and take advantage of seeing friends, activities including cinema trips, shopping trips, laser tag, and cookery evenings.

The school ensures that all pupils, day and boarding, receive the same level of academic and pastoral support, and access to facilities. Bryanston Prep has an effective pastoral system, ensuring that our pupils know where to turn for support. Pupils in Y6 have a form tutor provided, with pupils in Y7-8 having one-to-one tutors who arrange tutorials with their pupils at least once a week to check on their academic progress and well-being. Pupils also have access to the school chaplain, medical centre staff, school counsellors and Independent Listener.

Effective communication among parents, pupils, one-to-one tutors, and teachers is crucial to maintaining the high standard of pastoral care we offer. Parents also have access to the eChart, which provides individual records of a pupil's academic progress, including comments from the teacher and one-to-one tutor.



We celebrate individuality and embrace diversity. Pupils are encouraged to recognise and respect the 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 experiences gained at Bryanston Prep, helping them become confident, independent, responsible, and compassionate young individuals.

Prep School Head  
September 2024