



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

EXPLICIT SEXUAL MATERIAL POLICY

(V2.0 2021-09)

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EXPLICIT SEXUAL MATERIAL POLICY V2.0 2021-09

1. Purpose and Application

This policy must be read in conjunction with the Brisbane Grammar School (**BGS** or **the School**) *Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy)*. If there is suspected sexual abuse, harm or inappropriate behaviour as defined in the *Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy)*, then the matter must be first dealt with under that policy and strategy.

Explicit sexual material is widely accessible through information and communication technologies, and the rate of young people's exposure – both intentional and unintentional – is very high. Explicit sexual material can also be easily created and shared using devices to which young people commonly have access. In this context, explicit sexual material is increasingly part of young people's sexual exploration. However, young people's exposure to and capacity to create and share explicit sexual material raises a range of concerns for their healthy social and sexual development, and wellbeing.

For some young people, exposure to explicit sexual material can be upsetting or disturbing. Explicit sexual material commonly communicates a range of harmful messages about gender, sex and aggression, and there is evidence that these messages are influencing young people's sexual understandings, expectations and behaviours. For example, some young people experience pressure or coercion to create and/or provide to others a sexual image of themselves; sometimes young people do so willingly. In either case, the potential social, emotional and legal (civil and criminal) consequences of sharing explicit sexual material can be substantial for those involved.

The purpose of this policy is to inform staff, students and parents and the wider School community of the School's:

- Intention to prevent and reduce the harms associated with explicit sexual material through a whole school approach that includes creating and maintaining a safe and respectful School Environment; education; and parent and community partnerships;
- Position that, despite its wide accessibility and influence, it is inappropriate for any person to create, store, send, share, receive or view explicit sexual material in a School Environment;* and
- Processes that are in place to deal with behaviour involving explicit sexual material.

This policy applies to such behaviour involving students or staff wherever it occurs, where there is a relevant connection with the School, including within and outside of the School, and in real life and online platforms (**School Environment**).

This policy complements and builds on the School's other policies as part of its commitment to the wellbeing of its students and to equipping them for a healthy, fulfilling life.

This policy applies to all staff (including contractors, volunteers and work experience students), students and parents.

* There may be some circumstances in which explicit material can be appropriately used for educational purposes, such as images of bodies being shown as part of sexuality education. However, this requires careful consideration and approval by School leadership and does not include the use of material that is Pornography.



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2. Definitions

In this policy:

Explicit sexual material is language or imagery of a sexual nature, including written material, drawings, photographs or videos showing one or more person who is naked, semi-naked or engaged in a sexual act. The term explicit sexual material refers to all sexual material, regardless of where, how or by whom it was obtained or disseminated, and for what purposes. Explicit sexual material includes Pornography.

Pornography is printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity, intended to stimulate sexual excitement. Pornography may include written material as well as sexually explicit visual material – both still and moving imagery. Pornography refers to industry-produced sexual material but may also include material that is not made by professionals. Regarding the Pornography that is now widely available online, there is no clear delineation between industry and non-industry-produced Pornography.

Sexting is the sharing of explicit sexual material via a device such as a mobile phone or tablet and/or via technology such as email, internet or social media. Senders and recipients may be children and/or adults, and may or may not know each other. Sexting may occur in the context of a romantic/ sexual exploration scenario or it may be due to coercion. Where sexting involves a child, it may be an offence under the Criminal Code in Queensland relating to the making, distribution and/or possession of child exploitation material. Where sexting involves an adult and a child it may be a form of grooming, which is conduct by which a person creates or exploits opportunities to engage in sexual contact with a child. Grooming may precede sexual abuse.

3. Prohibition of Explicit Sexual Material

Brisbane Grammar School is committed to supporting students' wellbeing and capacity for healthy social and sexual development. Due to the widespread accessibility, nature and impact of explicit sexual material, this commitment includes seeking to prevent and reduce the harmful influences of explicit sexual material.

The School recognises that most young people are likely to engage in some level of age-appropriate sexual behaviour as part of their development. However, the School has a responsibility to ensure that it provides a safe School Environment for all its students and upholds standards of behaviour that are consistent with its values and the expectations of the broader School community.

To that end, staff and students must not create, store, send, share, receive or view explicit sexual material in the School Environment. In some instances, to do so may constitute a criminal offence.

For example, it is prohibited to:

- Store or view explicit sexual material on a School-supplied device (whether or not the person is at the School at the time);
- Send explicit sexual material to another person (whether or not they are connected to the School) (i.e. Sexting) on a private device using the School's Wireless Network; and



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- Share hard copy magazines or publications containing explicit sexual material with others.

Behaviour in breach of this policy may also breach the School's other policies applying to staff and students, such as the *ICT Use Policy*, *Code of Expectations and Behaviour (Students)*, *Code of Conduct (Staff)*, *Anti-Discrimination Policy* or *Sexual Harassment Policy*.

4. Prevention Strategies

Brisbane Grammar School is committed to a whole school approach to preventing and reducing the harmful effects of explicit sexual material. This includes:

- A commitment to creating and maintaining a School Environment, ethos, and culture in which it is understood that explicit sexual material is not acceptable, and respectful relationships and gender equity are modelled and promoted;
- Making the School's explicit sexual material policy accessible to staff, students and parents, and educating them about their respective responsibilities to support its implementation;
- Providing relevant staff with professional learning, quality resources and leadership support for their roles related to explicit sexual material, including teaching, engaging and educating parents, and/or responding to incidents;
- Providing sexuality and relationships education that takes a positive approach to sexuality, promoting concepts of respect, consent, communication, safety and mutuality, and addresses the issues relevant to students' socio-cultural context, including the influence of explicit sexual material and the normalisation of its consumption; and
- Developing parent and community partnerships to strengthen the education and support of students in relation to issues associated with explicit sexual material.

5. Shared Expectations

All staff, students and parents share a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's position on explicit sexual material, and the School's other, related policies, as referenced below.

6. Reporting of and Responding to Explicit Sexual Material

Staff, students and parents must report any behaviour involving explicit sexual material to the Deputy Headmaster and Head of Senior School or Head of Middle School, so that the School can respond.

The School will seek to respond quickly and effectively to any behaviour involving explicit sexual material, consistent with its policies and any relevant legislation.

In certain circumstances, the School may be required to notify the police or other authorities.

All reports of behaviour involving explicit sexual material will be managed in accordance with the School's internal operational procedures for responding to explicit sexual material (as applicable from time to time). The nature and extent of any investigation will be at the School's sole and absolute discretion, depending upon the circumstances. As far as is



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reasonably possible an investigation and its outcome will be kept confidential although, where appropriate, any staff or students involved, and their parents will be informed.

Following the completion of an investigation, the School will take such actions as are deemed appropriate by the School in its sole and absolute discretion, which could include one, or more, of the following:

- Explanation or apology;
- Counselling;
- An agreement regarding standards of future behaviour;
- Other methods to restore relationships; and
- Disciplinary action, such as detentions, suspension or expulsion, or in the case of a staff member, termination of employment or engagement.

7. Related Documents

- Anti-Discrimination Policy
- Behaviour Development Policy and Procedure (Teachers)
 - Behaviour Development Policy and Procedures (Teachers): Communication Record (*internal School procedure for staff*)
 - Behaviour Development Policy and Procedures (Teachers): Operational Procedures for responding to serious breaches of the Code of Expectations and Behaviour (Students) (*internal School procedure for staff*)
- Behaviour Development Policy (Students and Parents)
- Bullying Policy
 - Bullying Policy: Operational Procedures for Responding to Bullying (*internal School procedure for staff*)
- Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy)
 - Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy): Operational Procedures for Responding to Students at Risk of Self-Harm (*internal School procedure for staff*)
 - Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy): Creating a Safe School Environment - Boarding Students
 - Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy): Creating a Safe School Environment - Occasional Staff / Volunteer
 - Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy): Creating a Safe School Environment - Parents
 - Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy): Creating a Safe School Environment - Parents of Boarders
 - Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy): Creating a Safe School Environment – Students
 - Child Protection and Reporting Policy (and Child Safeguarding and Risk Management Strategy): Creating a Safe School Environment - Visitors
 - Child Protection Procedures for Reporting Harm (Parents and Students)
 - Child Protection Procedures for Reporting Harm (Staff) (*internal School procedure for staff*)
- Code of Conduct (Staff)
- Code of Expectations and Behaviour (Students)
- Counselling Policy



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- Explicit Sexual Material Policy: Operational procedures for Responding to Explicit Sexual Material (*internal School procedure for staff*)
- ICT Use Policy
- Privacy Policy and Standard Information Collection Notice
- Sexual Harassment Policy
- Student Enrolment Agreement

8. Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact:

- Deputy Headmaster and Head of Senior School: senior.school@brisbanegrammar.com or 3834 5200
- Head of Middle School: middle.school@brisbanegrammar.com or 3834 5200

9. Policy Management

The School will review this policy every two years to ensure it remains effective and relevant and may also change this policy at any time to take account of changes and the effect of changes, in legislation, best practice and other School policies and documents.

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Author/s	Deputy Headmaster and Head of Senior School Head of Middle School
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Document Control

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V2.0	Approved: Deputy Headmaster and Head of Senior School (David Carroll)	6 Aug 2021

Distribution

Version	Recipient	Date
V1.0	BGS: MyGrammar Staff Announcement Website	30 Aug 2018
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