

Independent Listener Policy

Primary person responsible for updates to this policy: Chris Randell

Job title: Principal

Last review date: June 2021

Next review date: July 2022

Relevant ISI coding (if applicable)

Circulation: This policy has been adopted by the governors and is available to parents on request. It is addressed to all members of staff and volunteers and applies wherever they are working with children.

‘Parents’ refers to parents, guardians and carers.

Independent Listener

Introduction

Standard 2.3 of The National Minimum Standards for Boarding Standards (NMS) requires schools to appoint an independent listener, as a possible 'safety valve' for pupils with concerns or problems.

Aim

To ensure every boarder is happy and has someone to talk to when/ if the need arises.

Practice

The independent listener will be introduced to the boarders, and his/her details will be clearly advertised around the school and in the boarding houses.

The position, which is an unpaid and voluntary role, is independent of the main lines of school management, but still subject to the school's specification and organisation. An appropriate job description and briefing / induction will be given.

The position is subject to the usual Safer Recruitment requirements. The independent listener will be given a copy of the college's safeguarding policy and have an induction with the college's senior designated lead in safeguarding.

This is a confidential system and the independent listener is under no obligation to inform the college of any calls but must understand the duty to breach this confidentiality should there be a welfare or safeguarding risk to a pupil or other pupils.