



Boarding Independent Listener Policy

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V1	March 2018	SC	Annual review to include clarification of wording and removal of names

Principle

Standard 2.3 of the National Minimum Standards (NMS) ¹ requires that “the school identify at least one person other than a parent, outside the staff, and those responsible for the leadership and governance of the school, who boarders may contact directly about personal problems or concerns at school. Boarders are informed who this person is, and how to contact them and they are easily accessible.”

Aims

- To ensure that every boarding student is benefitting from boarding, and is happy, safe and successful.
- To enable boarders to obtain support and guidance when they feel unable to talk to a member of boarding or school staff or other agencies.
- To provide an alternative person, other than school or boarding staff, to whom students can turn when having problems they'd like to talk through with someone

Practice

The independent listener is not an employed member of the academy trust.

The name and telephone number will be included in the parent student guide and displayed throughout the boarding house.

The independent listener will be invited to dinner once per half term to see students in boarding and to familiarise students with the independent listener.

The independent listener will be DBS checked before commencement of the role.

The independent listener will offer advice and guidance for students in order to ensure a happy and safe environment and will report any matters of concern to the appropriate body, organisation or member of staff. The independent listener will not offer confidentiality to a student making a disclosure and is duty bound to report any information which may result in harm to a child in boarding or elsewhere.

Updated information, advice and guidance on situations likely to arise e.g. bullying, drugs etc. will be passed on and the independent listener will be required to read the introduction to safeguarding handbook before attending a safeguarding training course at the earliest convenience.

The independent listener will sign this declaration stipulating the role and agrees to strict confidentiality with regards to matters arising from duties as the independent listener agreeing to discuss matters only with the appropriate body, organisation or member of staff.

The independent listener may withdraw his/her services with one month's written notice. The school and boarding programme reserves the right to cancel the arrangement with the independent listener and seek alternative provision if it is felt this is in the best interests of the boarders.

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416186/20150319_nms_bs_standards.pdf