



Durham School

INDEPENDENT LISTENER POLICY

1. Policy aims

- 1.1. This policy aims to outline the procedure for pupils to contact an independent listener should they wish to talk to someone not employed by the School.
- 1.2. The School commits in this policy to observing the principles of the Equality Act 2010 and does not discriminate on any grounds.

2. Relationship to Guidelines, Procedures, other Policies and Legal Requirements

- 2.1. This policy exists in response to the provisions of the regulatory requirements contained in the ISSRs and in the revised National Minimum Standards.
- 2.2. The provision of an Independent Listener complements the School's Safeguarding Policy guidance to staff on listening to pupils' views.

3. Policy Statements

- 3.1. All boarders are made aware of the name and contact details of the Independent Listener.
- 3.2. The Independent Listener is not an employee of the School.
- 3.3. Contact details for the Independent Listener are displayed in all houses and in new boarders' information packs, as well as around the school site. All boarders are assured of the discreet nature of any communication with the Independent Listener. However, in accordance with the School's Safeguarding Policy it is emphasised that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed if a disclosure of abuse or suspected abuse is made.
- 3.4. The Independent Listener is given appropriate induction, support and training by the School's designated safeguarding lead.

4. Oversight

Oversight of the Independent Listener Policy is undertaken by the Governors' Education Committee.

**Policy written and reviewed January 2015
KJ McLaughlin, Headmaster**

**Policy reviewed February 2018
J M Burns, Deputy Head Pastoral**