



Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation

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 Foundation.
- 1.2. The Foundation 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 for Boarding Schools.
- 2.2. The provision of an Independent Listener complements the Foundation'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 Foundation.
- 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 sites. All boarders are assured of the discreet nature of any communication with the Independent Listener. However, in accordance with the Foundation'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 Foundation's designated safeguarding lead.

4. Oversight

Oversight of the Independent Listener Policy is undertaken by the Governors' Education Committee and the policy will be reviewed at least once in every three-year period.

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

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

**Policy reviewed March 2021
J M Burns, Deputy Head Pastoral**

**Policy reviewed February 2024
H Thompson, Deputy Head Pastoral**