



Ruthin School

INDEPENDENT LISTENER POLICY	
Version	
Effective from	May 2020
Extent of Policy	Ruthin School
Policy Owner	Mark Rimmer
Governor	Tracey Kerrigan
Review by	September 2021
Frequency of Audit	Annual
Circulation	
Publication	Website

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.
- 1.3. The school commits to comply with the requirements of The National Minimum Standards for Boarding (DfE March 2015)

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 Independent School Standard Regulation's 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 pupils 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 pupils' information packs, as well as around the school site. All pupils 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 Person.
- 3.5. The Independent Listener is expected to become familiar figure to Pupils that they will feel able to make contact when they need.
- 3.6. The independent listener will visit the school once a week in the evening and visit during the day once a term.
- 3.7. Ruthin School's Independent Listener is Matt Weedall, Telephone Number 07830177532

4. Specific Responsibilities

- 4.1. Getting to know the school staff and Pupils and the people to whom

problems may be referred; communicating highly effectively around the school and externally; seeking support when necessary and supplying information as required.

- 4.2. Contributing to the school's oversight of safeguarding.
- 4.3. Listening; offering emotional support; helping Pupils think through problems by discussing them; responding to concerns; offering advice about school procedures and ways to handle situations; sign-posting to help-lines; in emergency arranging for assistance.
- 4.4. Agreeing boundaries and confidentiality with the Assistant Head Pastoral, so that the Independent Listener is able to support Pupils impartially while also supporting the School; recognising that confidentiality is overridden by specific Child Protection concerns.
- 4.5. Being aware of the policies and procedures that the school adopts and working within their framework.
- 4.6. Meeting the Assistant Head Pastoral or, in the absence of the Assistant Head Pastoral, the Head of Boarding once every term.

5. Oversight

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