



OLD BUCKENHAM HALL

Brettenham Park
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 7PH
Website: www.obh.co.uk

INDEPENDENT LISTENER POLICY



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Independent Listener

Introduction

Standard 14.4 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 school's safeguarding policy and have an induction with the school's senior designated lead in safeguarding.

This is a confidential system and the independent listener is under no obligation to inform the school 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.

Emma Easdale Sept 2014