



OLD BUCKENHAM HALL

Independent Person Policy

OBHP47

Independent Person

The school identifies at least one person other than a parent, outside the staff, and those responsible for the leadership and governance of the school, who children may contact directly about personal problems or concerns at school. This person is known as the 'independent person'. (*The National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools – Sept 22*)

The school aims to ensure every boarder is happy and has someone to talk to when/if the need arises.

The school's current independent person is, James Martin.

The independent person is introduced to the boarders via assemblies and informal visits. His details are clearly advertised around the school, in pupil planners and in the boarding houses.

The position, 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 are given.

The position is subject to the usual child protection requirements. The independent person will be given a copy of the school's safeguarding policy, staff code of conduct and have an induction with the school's senior designated lead in safeguarding.

This is a confidential system, and the independent person 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.

Pupils have access to phones and email and a selection of telephone numbers of people they can contact who are independent from the school. These include Childline, NSPCC helpline, the Children's Commissioner's "Help at Hand service".

Monitoring and Review:

This Policy will be reviewed annually or when there are changes in legislation or regulations.