



WARWICK SCHOOL - BOARDING

INDEPENDENT PERSON POLICY

Regulatory	Yes
Version	2024.1
Author and Reviewer	WS Head of Boarding
Approving Body	Warwick School Governors Committee
Date Approved	
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Boarding Independent Person Policy

Introduction

Standard 11.4 of the National Minimum Standards (NMS) requires that “the school identify at least one person other than a parent, outside the staff, and those responsible for the leadership and governance of the school, who boarders may contact directly about personal problems or concerns at school. Boarders are informed who this person is, and how to contact them and they are easily accessible.”

In accordance with the NMS, Warwick School has named an “independent person” outside the school and outside Warwick School Foundation who is available to students who may want to discuss concerns or problems.

Aims

- To ensure that every boarding student is benefitting from boarding, and is happy, safe and successful.
- To enable boarders to obtain support and guidance when they feel unable to talk to a member of boarding or school staff or other agencies.
- To provide an alternative person, other than school or boarding staff, to whom students can turn when having problems that they would like to talk through with someone.

Practice

- The independent person will be subject to full recruitment checks in accordance with the Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024), NMS, ISI regulations and the Foundation's Recruitment and Selection Policy before commencement of the role. The independent person will be included in the Single Central Register.
- The independent person will receive access to and is expected to follow all policies and procedures relating to:
 - Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2018)
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)
 - all related Foundation and School policies, including the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- The independent person receives full safeguarding training upon appointment and undertakes safeguarding training on an annual basis thereafter.
- The independent person will be provided with the contact details of the Designated Safeguarding Lead, as well as the contact details of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and Warwickshire Children's Services via the Foundation Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- The name and email address will be included in the parent student guide and displayed throughout the boarding house. Boarders are also provided with appropriate contact details of external organisations, including but not limited to Childline, the NSPCC, the Children's Commissioner, the Samaritans, and Warwickshire Children's Service.
- The independent person information will be included each week at the weekly house meeting.
- The independent person information will be displayed on the wellbeing boards in each boarding house and in the skype rooms.
- The independent person will offer advice and guidance for students in order to ensure a happy and safe environment and will report any matters of concern to the appropriate body, organisation or member of staff.
- The independent person will not offer confidentiality to a student making a disclosure and is duty bound to report any information which may result in harm to a child in boarding or elsewhere. In the event that information does need to be relayed for safeguarding purposes, this will be directed to the appropriate Designated Safeguarding Lead.

- In the event a referral to the LADO or Children's Services is required, the Independent Person is under no obligation to share this information with the School but may inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with the Foundation's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy reporting procedures.
- The Independent Person will be briefed on any trends within the Foundation (e.g. bullying, substance abuse etc) that are likely to result in contact with pupils. They will be provided with all policies associated with these issues such as the Anti-Bullying Policy.
- The independent person agrees to strict confidentiality with regards to matters arising from duties as the independent listener agreeing to discuss matters only with the appropriate body, organisation or member of staff.
- The independent person may withdraw his/her services with one month's written notice. The school and boarding programme reserves the right to cancel the arrangement with the independent listener and seek alternative provision if it is felt this is in the best interests of the boarders.