

PUPIL ACCESS TO A PERSON INDEPENDENT OF THE SCHOOL STAFF GROUP

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Date	March 2024
Approved/reviewed by	SET Boarding Committee
Review frequency & next review due	Annually or as required, March 2025

Standard 11.3 of the Boarding National Minimum standards requires that 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 the school. This person may be known as the 'independent person'. Children know who this person is, know how to contact them and feel comfortable talking to them. The person is easily accessible.

We aim 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.
- Provide an alternative person, referred to as the Independent Person, other than school or boarding staff, to whom students can turn when having problems they'd like to talk through with someone

At any given time there will be at least one Independent Person whose name, contact details and photo will appear clearly on display in all Boarding Houses and whose name and contact details will appear in boarding house handbooks. Also on display will be a brief summary of the role of the Independent Person. The Independent Person is not an employed member of the School.

The Independent Person for Underwood Hall is Simon Franklin.

The Independent Person is very much considered as part of the boarding community. They are invited into school to visit boarding houses on an informal basis.

As volunteers, the Independent Person will be DBS checked and will be required to complete safeguarding training as would be the case for other volunteer roles within the school.

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. Updated information, advice and guidance on situations likely to arise e.g. bullying, drugs etc. will be passed on. The Independent Person will be required to be familiar with boarding policy and protocol particularly as it relates to safeguarding.

The Independent Person will put in writing a declaration that stipulates the role and agrees to strict confidentiality with regards to matters arising from duties as the Independent Person agreeing to discuss matters only with the appropriate body, organisation or member of staff. As the role is voluntary, the Independent Person may withdraw his/her services at any time. The School reserves the right to cancel the arrangement with the Independent Person and seek alternative provision if it is felt this is in the best interests of the boarders.