

Independent Listener Policy

Introduction

Pupils are always encouraged to share their worries and concerns with an adult that they trust. As it says in the 'You' poster displayed in all the boarding Houses, there many different people available and willing to talk to pupils who are seeking support and guidance. These include the Housemaster/Housemistress, House tutors, the Safeguarding Team (DSL and DDLs), the School Counsellors, the Health Centre and others. There are also outside agencies as well as the school's independent listener. Contact details for all of the above are displayed on the 'You' poster.

Regulatory

Standard 11 of the National Minimum Standards for Boarding (NMS) 2026 requires schools to identify '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.'

Practice

In addition to their employees, Caterham School has a volunteer independent listener as a possible safety valve for pupils with concerns or problems. The Independent Listener is Rachel Hart, Deputy Head (Pastoral) at Roedean, who understands the norms and expectations of the school and its boarding community. Rachel is briefed on the School's Safeguarding Policy, with particular reference to the rules on confidentiality, namely that she is obliged to share any safeguarding concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or DDSLs. In the early stages of each academic year her role is explained to all boarding pupils.

Rachel's contact details are displayed on all the 'You' posters in the boarding Houses:

Email: Independentlistener1811@gmail.com

Tel: 07572 232839