

# Independent Listener

## Pupil access to a person independent of the school staff group



 CUNDALL MANOR SCHOOL

Created	September 2021
Date Reviewed	September 2022
Annual Review	September 2023
Head of Boarding	Sarah Reece
Headmaster	Chris James-Roll

*This information is taken from and contained within the Boarding Policy document*

## **Standard 11 – Boarders’ induction and individual support**

### **11.4 Independent Listener**

As described above, in each bedroom is displayed a poster detailing those who a boarder may wish to talk to if they have concerns. This includes the school’s Independent Listener, Rev. Bob Sidgwick. Rev. Sidgwick will do an assembly at least once a year so that all pupils in the school know who he is, and will visit the boarding house to chat with the boarders at least once a term.

### **11.5 Support services**

As described above, in each bedroom is displayed a poster detailing those who a boarder may wish to talk to if they have concerns. This includes encouragement to talk to their parents, to close friends who may be able to help, an older boy/girl to whom they feel they can turn. As well as all those sources of support previously mentioned, information is given about the following services:

- Childline (Tel 0800 1111)
- The Office of the Children’s Commissioner runs an organisation called Help at Hand which gives free support, advice and information to children living away from home. They can visit [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/help-at-hand](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/help-at-hand) or freephone 0800 528 0731.

All of these sources of support are discussed during the boarder’s induction.

### **11.6 Advocacy**

All boarders are made aware that, if they wish to raise a serious concern, they are entitled to advocacy, and that this can be provided by the Independent Listener or another person of their choosing.

#### **Standard 11 – Boarders’ induction and individual support**

11.4 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.

11.5 Boarders are also provided with details of two or more child specific support services, such as Childline or the Children’s Commissioner’s Help at Hand service, to contact in case of problems or distress.

11.6 Boarders are provided with appropriate advocacy support where necessary and are made aware of what advocacy services are available, how they may access such support and any entitlement they may have to advocacy provision, and that advocacy provision adheres to the National Standards.