



THE ORATORY

THE ORATORY SCHOOL (OS) Independent Listener Policy

Policy Owner:	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Type of Policy:	Regulatory* (i.e. required by ISI)
Regulatory Body* (if a regulatory policy)	DfE and BSA
Relevant Legislation* (if a regulatory policy)	Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 and National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools (May 2026)
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Linked policies	Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

To enhance our pastoral provision and to comply with National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools, The Oratory School has an Independent Listener available to our pupils. They are available to provide independent support for our pupils when they would like to discuss a concern with someone not working daily in the school. The Independent Listener is a person outside the staff and those responsible for the leadership and governance of the school, whom pupils may contact directly about personal problems or concerns at school. This is a voluntary role.

The main role of the Independent Listener is to promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons with whom they come into contact. The Independent Listener will be required to do the following:

- Take into account the School's views on the pupil's needs, as well as the pupil's wishes and views;
- If contacted by a pupil, they should provide an opportunity for them to talk through problems and issues in a safe and non-discriminatory manner;
- The Independent Listener should be clear with pupils that, whilst conversations will normally be treated confidentially, any Safeguarding concern, allegation, disclosure of abuse, or information indicating that a child may be at risk of harm cannot be kept confidential and must be referred immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in accordance with the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy;
- Encourage pupils to participate in decisions affecting them;
- Keep accurate and confidential records bearing in mind some pupils wish to remain anonymous;
- Safeguarding and Child Protection issues arising from conversations with pupils should be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL);
- Work in a child-centred manner, being clear about confidentiality and where boundaries lie;
- Proactively be alert to indicators of potential Safeguarding issues and report these immediately in accordance with the School procedure;
- Be aware of the School's Safeguarding Policy and to follow its requirements;
- Attend training relating to Safeguarding of Children provided by the School as required;
- Help in ensuring that all pupils are aware of the role and availability of the Independent Listener;
- Engage in safe practice and professional conduct to safeguard children to militate against the potential for misunderstandings or situations being misconstrued;

- Be able to and supported to promote awareness of the role of the Independent Listener in school.