

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you about Operation Encompass. This is an innovative project in which schools in North Tyneside have participated since June 2016, and is run in partnership with North Tyneside Council and Northumbria Police.

The project aims to support children who are affected by domestic abuse. Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing for a child or young person, who often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards or can be physically hurt trying to stop the abuse.

As a result, following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the police, the Police will make contact with Children's Social Care Front Door service who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to children in a way that means they feel safe and listened to.

Each school has members of staff (key adults) who have been fully trained in liaising with police and Children's Social Care when required, and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child following the disclosure of a domestic abuse incident.

In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone further about the project or require further information please contact our key adults in school who are Mrs Short (Assistant Headteacher) and Miss Wood (Senior Family Support and Welfare Officer). You can also find out more information here <http://www.operationencompass.org>

Since the summer of 2019 the project has developed further and is part of a new Home Office approved project. This is led by Crime Commissioner, Dame Vera Baird, and Northumbria Police in partnership with Barnardo's and Operation Encompass. The project, named Operation Encompass: The Next Steps, aims to educate children and young people about healthy relationships.

The project will help all children in Northumbria to learn about friendships, relationships, emotions and empathy and rules and expectations, so that they can live and work together safely.

Our school will also benefit from having one of twelve School Safeguarding Liaison Officers who will:

- Work with our teachers to deliver an age appropriate sessions exploring friendships /relationships/emotions
- Be available in school at specified times so that children and parents can talk about issues that they may have around relationships. At this time any pupil or parent can access our School Safeguarding Liaison Officer who will be based in a meeting room, at the school entrance. We will inform you in advance of when a session is planned

We are committed to working in partnership to safeguard and protect children and are keen to offer the best care and support possible to all our students. We believe this will be extremely beneficial for the whole school community.

Yours faithfully

Val Short
Assistant Headteacher