



Operation Encompass

The safety and wellbeing of young people is our greatest priority. Our school is one of many in County Durham that is taking part in a project aimed at providing extra support to young people who are affected by or witness domestic abuse in their home lives.

Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing for a young person. They can often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries and distress afterwards, or be physically hurt themselves.

The project, called Operation Encompass, aims to support children affected in any way by domestic abuse. The project is a joint initiative involving Durham County Council, Durham Police and schools across the county.

A major part of the project is the training of school staff, known as a 'key adults' in each school to liaise with police and work with the young people affected.

From January 2017, following higher risk domestic abuse incidents being reported into Durham Police, specialist staff will identify which school that child attends, make contact with the key adult and communicate relevant and necessary information. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and they can subsequently provide support in a way that means the child feels safe and supported.

I believe our school's involvement in this project demonstrates our commitment to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone about the project or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs L Porter on 01833 637029 or by email p3461.admin@durhamlearning.net. You can also find out more information at www.durham.gov.uk/encompass

Yours Faithfully

Mrs L Box

Headteacher

St Mary's RC School