

October 2026

Dear Families

Following our recent communication regarding Domestic Abuse Awareness Week, we would like to take this opportunity to remind families that our school is part of **Operation Encompass**, a national safeguarding initiative that operates jointly between schools and police forces.

Operation Encompass aims to support children and young people who may have experienced domestic abuse. It enables the police to notify schools, before the start of the next school day, when they have attended an incident of domestic abuse at a home where a child is present, has heard, seen, or been affected by the incident.

We recognise that domestic abuse can have a significant impact on children and young people, affecting their emotional wellbeing, behaviour, attendance, relationships, and ability to engage in learning. Through Operation Encompass, schools can provide timely and appropriate support when it is needed most.

Within our school, trained members of staff, including our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and safeguarding team, act as Key Adults. They have received Operation Encompass training and are responsible for receiving and handling this information confidentially. Information shared by the police is used solely to ensure that appropriate support can be put in place for the child or young person.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises children who experience domestic abuse as victims in their own right, reflecting the profound impact that domestic abuse can have on their lives. In addition, on 24 May 2024, the Victims and Prisoners Act received Royal Assent, placing Operation Encompass on a statutory footing. This means that police forces now have a legal duty to share Operation Encompass notifications with schools and educational settings.

As a school, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils. Being part of Operation Encompass strengthens our ability to support children who may be experiencing difficulties at home and ensures that help can be provided sensitively, discreetly, and at the earliest opportunity.

If you would like further information about Operation Encompass or support relating to domestic abuse, please contact the school's safeguarding team. Additional information can also be found at www.operationencompass.org.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep children safe and enable them to thrive.

Yours faithfully,

Vicki Barnes

Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

“ Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience. ”

“ Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right¹. ”

“ We have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained about Operation Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care. ”

“ Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident. ”

“ This information means that we can understand a child's behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want. ”

“ We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this. ”

¹ Domestic Abuse Act 2021