October 2022

Dear Parent/Guardians,

Please read the following letter detailing a new initiative that has been launched recently in all schools in our locality. Operation Encompass is an early intervention partnership between Police and Schools.

It is aimed at supporting children who are victims of domestic violence.

Operation Encompass is already established across all of England and Wales and is now coming to Northern Ireland. It is very simple idea, but one that will help us to support and protect vulnerable children. When the Police attend an incident of domestic violence where one of our pupils is present, they will inform the schools designated teacher for child protection at the start of the next school day.

This information will be treated in strict confidence, like any other category of child protection information. It will be processed as per DE Circular 2020/07 ‘Child Protection Record Keeping in Schools’ and a note will be made in the child’s child protection file. The information received on an Operation Encompass call from the Police will only be shared outside of the safeguarding team on a proportionate and need to know basis. All members of the safeguarding team will complete online Operation Encompass training, so they are able to take these calls. Any staff responsible for answering the phone at school will be made aware of Operation Encompass and the need to pass these calls on with urgency to a member of the Safeguarding team.

Following any notification from the police, our staff will provide immediate support to any child who has been the victim of domestic abuse. We know that when children do witness domestic abuse at home, this is a highly traumatic experience for them. By taking part in Operation Encompass, we can provide tailored and compassionate support to our pupils, in line with our school ethos. This builds on our existing commitment to child safeguarding.

Should you wish to find out more information, please contact the schools Designated Teacher for Child Protection [Mrs Donnelly] or alternatively you can read more about Operation Encompass at [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org).

Safeguarding Team

Mrs Donnelly (DT) Mrs Kearney (DDT) Mr Duggan (Principal)