

2 May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you that the school will be taking part in a jointly run operation between Kent County Council, Kent Police and our school, which is known as Operation Encompass.

Operation Encompass has been set-up to help schools to provide support to children who have been present, or exposed to or involved in any domestic abuse incident. We know that children can be significantly physically or emotionally harmed when they witness or are involved, directly or indirectly, with any domestic abuse incident.

I have been trained to allow me to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for the right support to be available for any child and their family.

We are always keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Please see overleaf for further information. If you have any concerns or questions then please contact me and I will be happy to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Costain Deputy Head

















When a child witnesses domestic abuse, it can have damaging and long-lasting effects. Their voice is not often heard. We can help to provide an early intervention to support them.

## What is Operation Encompass?

Operation Encompass is a process where Kent safeguarding agencies share information about domestic abuse incidents to help protect any children who are involved. We piloted the process in Deal and, over the next 12 months, will introduce Operation Encompass throughout the county.

## What is the process?

- 1. The child's full name, date of birth and name of education setting should be recorded by the attending officer at any domestic abuse incident where a child is present or resides.
- 2. Information will be shared, in confidence with the Education Key Adult by the designated Divisional Officer.
- 3. The Education Key Adult will record and store information securely.
- 4. Sharing of information between the police and education setting will provide support and early intervention for children. This allows them to remain in school and continue to learn in a safe environment.

## What is the role of a Key Adult?

A Key Adult is a member of staff in a school, nursey or academy that has been specially trained to make sure the child has the right support available following a domestic abuse incident.

## What are the benefits?

- The Key Adult will be able to look out for the child, spot the early warning signs and share important information which could be vital to improve the child or young person's life.
- Operation Encompass will improve multi-agency sharing of information and build upon the trust that already exists between them.

Op Encompass is an opportunity to make a difference to the lives of children who are affected by domestic abuse. If you're a parent, school or partner, you can find out more information via www.operationencompass.org.