

Operation Encompass



What is Operation Encompass?

The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguard and support children and young people who have been involved in a domestic abuse incident. Following an incident at home, children will often arrive at school distressed, upset and unprepared for the day.

Sunderland City Council, Northumbria Police and nominated Key Adults in school work together to make sure that school staff are made aware of an incident early enough to support pupils in school.

Operation Encompass was initially launched in Plymouth in February 2011 to address a shortcoming in the early sharing of information with schools: schools in Sunderland have been involved since 2017. On 24th May 2024 Royal Assent was granted to The Victims and Prisoners Act. The new Act placed Operation Encompass into law and puts a statutory obligation on police forces to share Operation Encompass notifications with schools.

How does it work?

Key adults have been identified in school take a lead role in Operation Encompass in school:

Mrs V Hanlon - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss C Tose - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs L Millican - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Each morning a police officer will review all domestic abuse incidents that occur outside of school but which might have had an impact on a child attending school the following day. Where children were present, witnessed or involved in a domestic abuse incident and aged between 4 and 16 years old, the officer will send this information to the Council's Initial Contact and Referral Team who will then send this information in a secure format to the named Key Adult in the child's school. The Key Adult will check their emails every day and the staff in contact with those pupils will then be in an informed position to support them in a way that is right for the child.

What Does This Mean for Families?

The aim of Operation Encompass is to support children in school, following any incident which may have caused distress or harm. Grangetown Primary School is committed to working closely with parents and carers in order to offer support to the wider family. If school receive an Operation Encompass notification, *if appropriate* a key adult will speak to the child or children involved as well as make contact with family at home. Information will be shared in school on a need to know basis and always with the safety and wellbeing of children as a priority.

For more information about Operation Encompass, please visit www.operationencompass.org

V Hanlon
Designated Safeguarding Lead / Deputy Headteacher

6th January 2025