OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Q. What is Operation Encompass?

* Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, before the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has been involved in or exposed to domestic abuse.
* Operation Encompass is a national multi-agency initiative for the safeguarding of children experiencing or exposed to domestic abuse and a preventative measure to try and influence how the effects of the experience may impact on these children as future adults.
* The purpose of the information sharing is to ensure schools have more information to support safeguarding of children. By knowing that the child has had this experience, the school is in a better position to understand and be supportive of the child’s needs and possible behaviours.
* Operation Encompass will complement existing safeguarding procedures.

Q. How does it work?

A. Police will share information with the school’s DSL through the Educational Representative (Karen Flynn Karen.flynn@shropshire.gov.uk) either via secure email or phone call. The information will contain the child’s details, the incident time and location and the police incident reference number only.

Q. What is the school meant to do with this knowledge?

A. By knowing that the child has had a domestic abuse experience, the school is in a better position to be supportive and understanding of the child’s needs and possible behaviours. This knowledge will inform the school’s response to any presenting behaviour. The DSL will share this information on a need to know basis e.g. the form teacher.

Q. Will parents be aware of this new process?

A. Schools will need to let all parents know and will be provided with a template letter (see attached,) which they can use to inform the parents. By sharing this information, the parents affected by domestic abuse will also know that they can approach the school.

Q. What should schools do to ensure effective participation?

A. Ensure your school is represented at the Heads’ Briefing Events where a presentation will be given by West Mercia Police.  This presentation will include the background of Operation Encompass, the effects of domestic abuse on children (Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and traumatic behaviours) and further information on what is expected of schools when they receive a referral, both the admin which is required and the support and safeguarding around the child, plus details of the initial DSL responsibilities following the presentation.

Q. Where can I find out more about the background to Operation Encompass?

A. <http://www.operationencompass.org>

