



In Every Force...

In Every School...

For Every Child...

Safeguarding Children and Young People in Education



Operation Encompass

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Aims of the session

Raise awareness of the Operation Encompass initiative

Understand what this means for a child in school



How does it work?

Operation Encompass provides an efficient and confidential channel of communication between police forces and **Key Adults** (normally the DSL) within schools.

This contact then enables the **Key Adult** and school to recognise the child's situation, and ensures a secure and sympathetic environment is provided and the broader effects of abuse are addressed.



What does this mean for the child in school?

Through Operation Encompass a trained **Key Adult** in school (DSL or Headteacher) will be notified (by the police) preferably **PRIOR** to the start of the next school day, that a child has experienced or maybe affected by an incident of Domestic Abuse that the police have attended.

The aim is that the report comes in first thing, before school starts.

What Operation Encompass doesn't do...

There is **no need for any action to be taken** following an Operation Encompass report. The report is confidential and should be treated as such within school. Only safeguarding staff will have this information.

The child(ren) do not necessarily require any extra support at all, it may be enough just to give some context to the child's day in case of any issues that may arise, and make allowances if necessary.

It allows school to be aware of the issue of domestic violence even if **no disclosure has been made.**





Why?

Children who experience domestic abuse are negatively impacted by this exposure.

Domestic abuse has been identified as an **Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)** and can lead to long term emotional, physical and psychological harm.

Operation Encompass aims to mitigate this harm by enabling immediate support if needed, making a child's day better and giving them a better tomorrow.



Emotional harm

Domestic abuse is a safeguarding children issue; children are often present in a household during a domestic abuse incident.

The following day, children can be ill-prepared to deal with the school day.

Children without any support, who are isolated or lack nurturing adults in their lives, are more negatively affected by their exposure to domestic abuse.

Due to recent updates in statutory guidance children are now recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

Benefits for school

Schools are in a position to:

- Develop a trusting relationship with the child and the parent.
- Monitor the child's feelings of safety and security
- Support possible safety planning.
- Acknowledge what they have been through or what they are going through.
- Monitor children at the start of the day; monitor attendance if required.
- Make referrals/signpost to support services for the child and/or parent.
- Help the child make sense of the way they are feeling and behaving – wishes and feelings work.
- Help the child to develop coping strategies.

Some of this support can be put in place without the parent or child being aware.

Once a disclosure is made (if at all), then further support can be put in place

Sharing Operation Encompass

Information about the initiative must be shared with the following:

- All school staff, including support staff – through staff training and policies
- Governors – through local governing body meetings
- Parents – through newsletters/websites

Operation Encompass believes that children are victims of domestic abuse in their own right and should be acknowledged as such.