



St Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary School

Live the Gospel and when necessary use words

'Everyone needs to recognise that children exposed to domestic abuse are victims of a crime. They do not need to be directly physically harmed, but suffer when they are exposed to domestic abuse and live in an environment of fear and intimidation.'

(Home Office: Response and Consultation Draft Domestic Abuse Bill)

Dear Parent/Carer

If you feel forced to change your behaviour because you are frightened of your partner or ex-partners reaction – you could be experiencing domestic abuse.

Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing for a child or young person. We know that children often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards or can be physically hurt trying to stop the abuse. **OPERATION ENCOMPASS** is a project which aims to support children who are affected by domestic abuse.

St. Bernadette's has been an Operation Encompass school since 2016. The information in this letter is a reminder of the project which is run in partnership with North Tyneside Council and Northumbria Police.

Following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the police, the police will make contact with Children's Social Care Front Door service who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff (key adults). This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to children in a way that means they feel safe and listened to. The information received will remain highly confidential.

St. Bernadette's has two key adults - Mrs Fallon (Headteacher) and Mrs Walker (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead). We liaise with Police and Children's Social Care when required, and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child following the disclosure of a domestic abuse incident. If you are a victim of Domestic Abuse and you feel you have nowhere to turn, please make contact with myself or Mrs Walker and we can support you to access support.

If you would like to speak to someone further about the project or require further information please contact myself or Mrs Walker. You can also find out more information here

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

Regards

Mrs Fallon