

Operation Encompass

What is Operation Encompass?

Background:

- Operation Encompass is an initiative, which enhances communication between the police and schools where a child is at risk from domestic abuse.
- The purpose of the information sharing is to ensure schools have more information to support the 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. What is Operation Encompass?

A. This is a process used to inform schools when the police have attended an incident of domestic violence or abuse, where domestic abuse incidents have occurred in the home of their pupils since the previous school day.

Q. How will it work?

A. Police will share information with First Response who will email the Key Adults in school. The school will be informed simply that there was an incident and the name of the child. No further information is shared at this point.

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

A. By knowing that the child has had this experience, the school is in a better position to be supportive and understanding of the child's needs and possible behaviours. The Head Teacher or DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) will share this information on a need to know basis.

The initial approach is that the sharing of information should not, in itself, provoke a proactive response to individual children by the school, but informs the school's response to any presenting behaviour.

Q. Will parents be aware of this process?

A. Schools will need to let all parents know, via newsletter or other appropriate means, that when Police attend an incident of domestic violence/abuse, the school will be informed first thing next morning. By sharing this information, the parents affected by domestic abuse will know that they can approach the school.

Q. What is the review/evaluation process?

A. The scheme will be evaluated and reviewed as it evolves. In other areas it has been found to be a very effective way for supporting children at a most difficult time.

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

- A. <https://www.lincs.police.uk/reporting-advice/domestic-abuse/operation-encompass/>
<https://www.operationencompass.org/>