

6 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Information regarding Operation Encompass

A new project, called Operation Encompass is being introduced, aimed at supporting children affected in any way by domestic abuse. The project is a joint initiative involving Darlington Borough Council, Durham Police and schools across Darlington.

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is our greatest priority. Our school is one of many in Darlington that will be taking part in a new project aimed at providing extra support to children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse within their home or family life.

Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing for a child or young person, often with them seeing and/or hearing the abuse, seeing a parent's injuries and distress afterwards, or they can be physically hurt themselves.

Starting from January 2017, following any serious domestic abuse incident being reported into Durham Police, specialist staff will identify which school the child attends, make contact with the school and communicate relevant and necessary information. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity of any incidents to enable the trained staff within the school's known as 'key adult' to provide support depending on the needs and wishes of the child or young person.

The key adult in school has attended training to ensure that they have a full understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on children.

I believe our school's involvement in this project demonstrates our commitment to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone about the project or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by phoning the college 01325 254525 or by emailing me lhunter@carmel.org.uk. You can find out more information at www.operationencompass.org/

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Hunter

Vice Principal and DSL