

SMC SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2021



ST MARY'S
COLLEGE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Operation Encompass:

Operation Encompass is a charitable organisation which provides support and intervention for children who have experienced domestic abuse. It is a way for the police to quickly share information with the school so the children who have experienced domestic violence can be effectively supported and safeguarded.

Children are negatively impacted by experiencing domestic abuse and without early intervention and support this negative impact can last through a child's life course.

Domestic abuse can impact upon social, psychological, physical, emotional and behavioural outcomes with an often negative impact upon a child's academic success. Experiencing domestic abuse has been identified as an Adverse Childhood Experience.

The intention of operation encompass is to directly connect police and schools

- to secure better outcomes for children
- to enable schools to better understand the impact living with domestic abuse has upon children
- to help schools to better understand a child's lived experience and to therefore be able to support and nurture each child
- making a child's day better and giving them a better tomorrow.

In St Mary's College

- there are children you know are experiencing domestic abuse
- children where you suspect that they are experiencing domestic abuse.
- the children who are experiencing domestic abuse and you will never know they are but the damage to them is still there.

KEY MESSAGES

- Thursday 25th November
White Ribbon Day and the launch of 16 days of action to end male violence against women: whiteribbon.org
- Lanyards must be worn at all times
- National Online Safety training this half term Female Genital Mutilation – all staff are to complete this unit by Friday 17th December



safeguarding@smchull.org

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse is an issue of epic scale and it exists in all parts of society, it occurs in every ethnic group, every age group, every makeup of relationship, in every part of our country and in every continent.

The damage done to a child living with domestic abuse is far reaching and can last throughout their life course. This damage can be caused at each and every stage of their lives, from conception onwards.

Domestic Violence can impact upon health, emotional wellbeing, behaviour, academic success, physical development, creating disrupted relationships and disorganised attachments. Children are often living in a state of heightened anxiety and hyper vigilance within their homes, rather than being a place of safety and security, being a place of stress and trauma leading to feelings of insecurity and danger.

Children experiencing domestic abuse are victims of domestic abuse in their own right and therefore must receive support, nurture and understanding from all professionals who come into contact with them.

Some of the risks to children experiencing domestic abuse:

- Being deliberately hurt /abused or murdered by the perpetrator.
- Being hurt because they try to intervene and support the adult victim.
- Going missing to remove themselves from the abuse.
- Vulnerable to being groomed for CSE, due to a possible desire to be loved, to have friends, to belong.
- Vulnerable to being groomed for County Lines, due to a possible desire to be valued, to have friends and a sense of belonging.
- Drug/alcohol misuse to self soothe and escape, self-harming and using food as a control.
- Not wanting to attend school as they feel ashamed, worried about leaving adult victim at home, anxious.
- Finding relationships tricky, being bullied, being an outsider.
- Being excluded because of behaviour due to the impact of domestic abuse which in turn means places children are at a greater risk of being groomed for CSE or County Lines and are left spending more time in the toxic home situation.



Why should we care so much about domestic abuse?

Apart from the prevalence and reach of domestic abuse, apart from the financial costs, apart from the damage that it does to both child and adult victims...we should all care because it is not just the children and young people who live with domestic abuse that are damaged. We cannot and we must not underestimate the impact of domestic abuse on individuals, on families, on communities and on our society as a whole. Its very existence diminishes us all.

