Ballyclare Secondary School

Doagh Road
Ballyclare
Co Antrim
BT39 9BG
info@ballyclaresec.ballyclare.ni.sch.uk
Tel: 028 9332 2610

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you about our school's participation in *Operation Encompass*. *Operation Encompass* is an early intervention partnership between police and schools. It is aimed at supporting children who are victims of domestic violence.

Operation Encompass is already established across all of England and Wales and is now coming to Northern Ireland. It is a very simple idea, but one that will help us to support and protect vulnerable children. When the police attend an incident of domestic violence where one of our pupils is present, they will inform the school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection at the start of the next school day. This information is shared in strict confidence and school staff are only told on a need-to-know basis. You will already be aware that I am the school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

Following any notification from the PSNI, our staff will provide immediate support to any child who has been the victim of domestic abuse. We know that when children do witness domestic abuse at home, this is a highly traumatic experience for them. By taking part in *Operation Encompass*, we can provide tailored and compassionate support to our pupils, in line with our school ethos. This builds on our existing commitment to child safeguarding. I have attached a parent / carer information sheet for you to read. We will have posters *referencing Operation Encompass* displayed in classrooms and all of our Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection have availed of training on the matter.

Should you wish to find out more information, please contact me or alternatively you can read more about Operation Encompass at www.operationencompass.org.

Yours faithfully,

A.Nicholl (Mr)
Vice Principal – Pastoral Care (Acting)
Designated Teacher for Child Protection