

Orchard Mead Academy

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Executive Principal: Mr M Oldman

Sep 2022

Re: Safeguarding - Operation Encompass

Dear Parent/Carer,

All schools in Leicester City and Leicestershire are part of a safeguarding initiative which aims to improve outcomes for children and families affected by domestic violence and abuse.

This scheme has been designed to provide early reporting to schools of any domestic abuse incidents that might have an impact on a child that attends their school. The approach, known as Operation Encompass, is also used nationally, and is run in partnership with Leicestershire Police.

During the school term our Designated Safeguarding Lead is informed when any domestic abuse incident has been reported to the police and one of our pupils was in the household. It will not give any details about the incident.

This was introduced because domestic abuse in a household can have a big impact on children, even if they do not see what is happening.

This information is used to ensure the school can provide appropriate support to our pupils. The information will remain **confidential** and only shared on a strictly need-to-know basis, for example with the class teacher. It will not be shared with any pupils.

If you would like to speak to someone in confidence about domestic abuse, call the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0800 802 0028 or visit <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-community/emergencies-safety-and-crime/domestic-and-sexual-abuse/>

We look to offer the best support possible for our pupils and believe that this scheme is beneficial and supportive for all those involved - it has been found to be an effective way of supporting children at a difficult time in their lives.

September 2022 update

Building upon the national success of Operation Encompass, police are expanding the information that they are sharing confidentially with the safeguarding leads in schools.

As part of the Operation Encompass Information Sharing Platform our Police Force will also share with the Designated Safeguarding Lead information about police attended incidents where they feel that there has been a tangible impact upon a child's physical, emotional, or mental well-being. This is a phased rollout that started on 19th September 2022.

This confidential information is shared so that our school can better understand children's living experience and can support, nurture and care for them more effectively.

As Designated Safeguarding Lead, I have attended a briefing about this information sharing and disseminated information to the Safeguarding Councillor and to all members of staff.

More information about Operation Encompass including their statement can be found on their website www.operationencompass.org

Should you wish to get in touch with me please do so by calling 01162413371 or emailing safeguarding@orchard-tmet.uk.

Regards,

Katie Lowe

Vice Principal

Designated Safeguarding Lead