



Telford Infant School

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5th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

OPERATION ENCOMPASS



I am writing to inform you that, from the beginning of the academic year 2019/20, Telford Infant School will be taking part in a jointly run scheme called Operation Encompass, in partnership with Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police. Many other schools in Warwickshire will also be participating in the scheme.

Operation Encompass is a way of working that was initially developed in south-west England and is already operating successfully in a number of other Local Authority areas. Its objective is to help schools provide support to children who are affected by incidents of domestic violence and abuse.

There is a great deal of research evidence that children can suffer significant physical and/or emotional harm when they are present during, witness or are directly involved in incidents of domestic violence and abuse.

The Operation Encompass process is simply that after any incident of domestic violence or abuse attended by the Police, the Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Leads at the school attended by any child in the household will receive a confidential and secure Email on the morning of the next school day. At Telford Infant School this will be myself and Ms Louise Roberts, Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The Email will only inform Ms Roberts and myself that the Police have attended an incident and will request that the school is mindful of that in their care and in responses to the child throughout the school day. The school will not be informed about the specific details of the incident. The only exception would be when Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police deem the incident to be a child protection matter that requires further investigation. Information would then be shared with the school as part

of Warwickshire County Council's child protection checks and investigation, which is current practice and will not be changed by Operation Encompass.

Ms Roberts and myself have entered into a formal agreement with Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police to use the information shared to make sure that the right support is available for children who are present during, witness or are directly involved in an incident of domestic violence or abuse. This means that the school will also be in a position to offer parents and carers support as appropriate.

The confidential information shared securely with the school will be managed and stored with the utmost sensitivity and discretion. We want to assure all parents and carers that Emails will only be sent to Ms Roberts and myself on our secure school email accounts. We will use any notifications discreetly to ensure that teachers and other staff directly in contact with affected children support them with due kindness, care and sensitivity.

We hope that every parent and carer will endorse the school's decision to participate in this process in order to provide children affected by domestic violence and abuse with appropriate support and understanding.

We are keen to offer the very best support possible to the children at Telford Infants and we believe this is going to be extremely beneficial for all those involved. If you have any concerns or questions then please do contact me.

Yours sincerely,

SA Oustayiannis

Mrs Siân A Oustayiannis
Headteacher



Race equality



The Griffin
Teaching School
Alliance

