



# *Working Together for Our Children*

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Re: Operation Encompass – Keeping Children Safe From Domestic Abuse**

Keeping children safe from harm is a significant responsibility of all schools. When necessary we work together with other partners to share information about children's well-being and make sure they are protected from harm.

Gateshead Schools participate the 'Operation Encompass' project which is run in partnership between Gateshead Council and Northumbria Police.

The project aims to support children who are affected by domestic abuse. Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing for a young child, who can often see and hear the abuse, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards or, in some cases, actually being physically hurt themselves trying to stop the abuse.

With this project, following any domestic abuse incident being reported to Northumbria Police, specialist police officers will make contact with the school and communicate any relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff (in Carr Hill's case either Mr Harris or myself). In doing this it will ensure the school is made aware at the earliest opportunity and can subsequently provide support in a way that the child feels safe.

Each school in Gateshead has a member of staff (called the key adult) who has been trained to liaise with the police, when required, and will ensure necessary support is made available to the child following the disclosure of a domestic abuse incident. Mr Harris and I share the 'key adult' role in our school for this project.

I believe this project demonstrates the school's commitment to working in partnership to safeguard and protect children, continuing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

If you would like to speak to someone further about this project please do not hesitate to contact me or DC Gill Menzies at Northumbria Police on 0191 433 2450 or by her email [OperationEncompass@Gateshead.gcsx.Gov.Uk](mailto:OperationEncompass@Gateshead.gcsx.Gov.Uk) You can also find out more information through accessing the following website: [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org).