



Guidance and Arrangements for the Implementation of Operation Encompass



Operation Encompass is a police and school¹ early intervention safeguarding information sharing partnership which supports children² experiencing³ domestic violence and abuse.

Operation Encompass is based upon the national requirements to not only identify children in need of support but to also ensure that this support is put in place immediately:

‘Nothing is more important than children’s welfare. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as a need is identified.’⁴

Police are a ‘local safeguarding partner’ required to ‘make arrangements to work together’ (with the other partners) ‘to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children including identifying and responding to their needs’.

Working Together to Safeguard Children and all its requirements apply to **all schools** and **Educational Settings**.



1 State funded schools, including state-maintained nurseries, independent schools, schools with 6th forms, academies, free schools, pupil referral units and alternative provision providers registered with the Government

2 Children refers to 0-18 years of age

3 Operation Encompass uses the word ‘experience’ rather than ‘witness’ or ‘exposed’ as we feel that this better reflects the impact upon a child

4 Working Together to Safeguard Children

Key Principles: Police

These Key Principles should form the basis of a police force's Operation Encompass Policy and Procedure document which clearly identifies the named Operation Encompass Lead in that force⁵.

It is considered best practice for an Information Sharing Agreement to be in place between police and educational settings⁶.

Police should share:

- **All** police attended incidents of domestic abuse, as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 where there are children related to any of the involved adults as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021⁷.

The Operation Encompass notification should:

- Be shared with **ALL** educational settings for children up to the age of 18 years of age.
- Be shared with an educational setting's trained Key Adult⁸ (this must be the Level 3 trained DSL, DDSL/DSO).
- Be shared with the educational setting **PRIOR**⁹ to the start of the next school day unless the force is sharing notifications from the incident in 'real time'.
- Include notifications from incidents which have occurred at weekends and during school holidays.

- Incidents of child to parent abuse should be shared.
- Incidents of teenage relationship abuse should be shared.
- Out of force area incidents should be passed to the appropriate force.
- Where a child attends an educational setting in a different force then the notification should be passed to the appropriate force Operation Encompass Lead.
- All Incidents for children from 28 weeks of pregnancy to 5 years of age should also be shared with Health Visitors.
- Early Years' Settings should also be informed of **ALL** domestic abuse incidents.
- When the police are made aware that the parents have chosen to educate their child/ren at home (Elective Home Education), are missing from education (CME) or not in education employment or training (NEET) then Children's Social Care and the Local Authority responsible Officer should be informed.

Additional Police Force activity:

- It is good practice for each police force to collect Operation Encompass data including numbers of notifications and numbers of children involved in notifications to Educational Settings.
- If electronic methods of delivery are used then this should be to a secure, generically named address/destination where only the trained Key Adults can access the information. (A method by which it can be ascertained that the information has been read by the school and the time it was accessed is good practice.)
- Forces should provide the schools with a direct email and telephone number so that they can contact the police if they need to change contact details or ask for further information about an incident.

⁵ A template is available from info@operationencompass.org

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⁷ Crime and non-crime should be shared

⁸ Key Adult should undertake specific Operation Encompass training (free online training available from www.operationencompass.org)

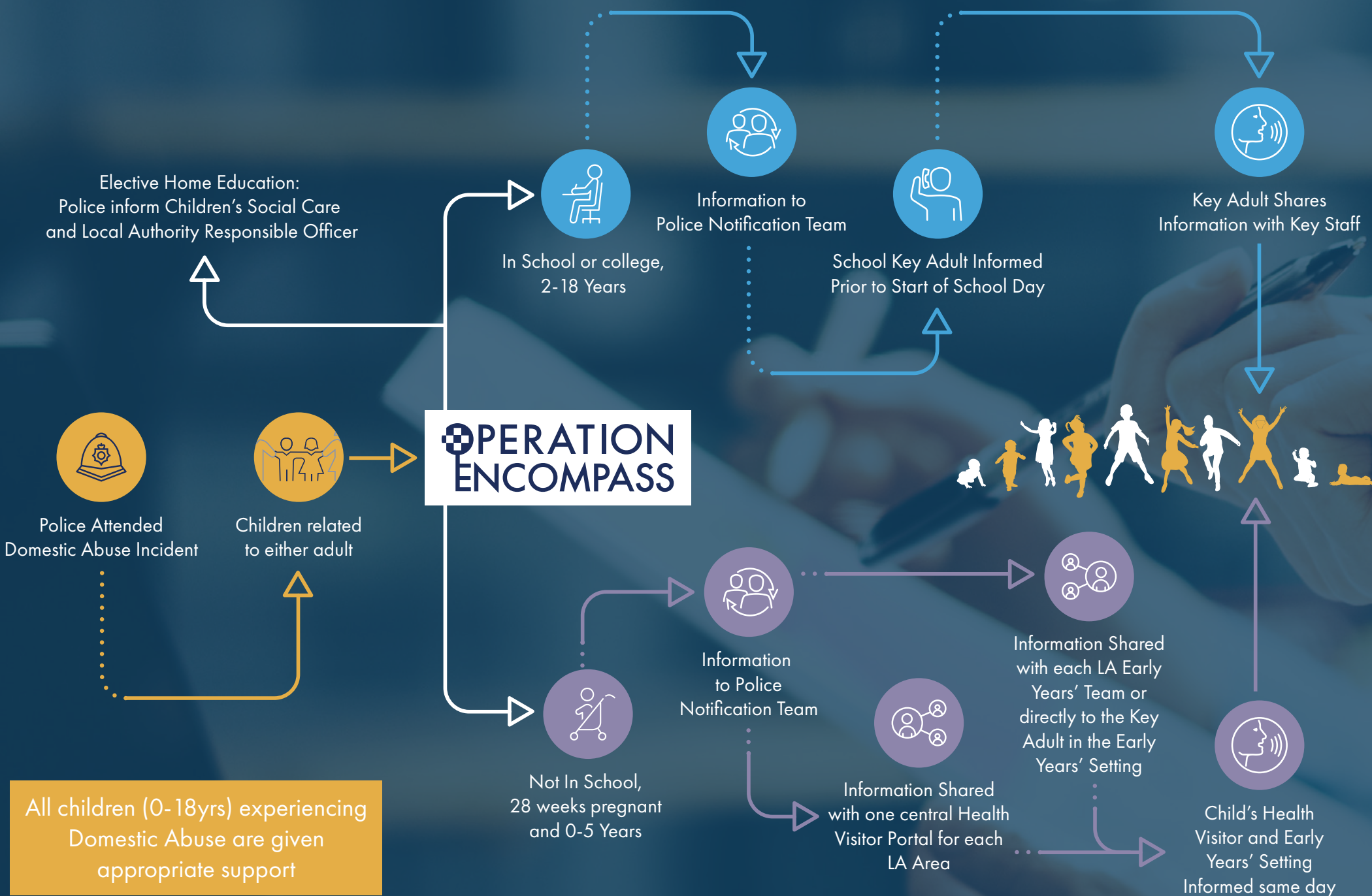
⁹ Information should be available to the Key Adult before the child arrives at school, preferably prior to 8.30am

The Operation Encompass Notification should include:

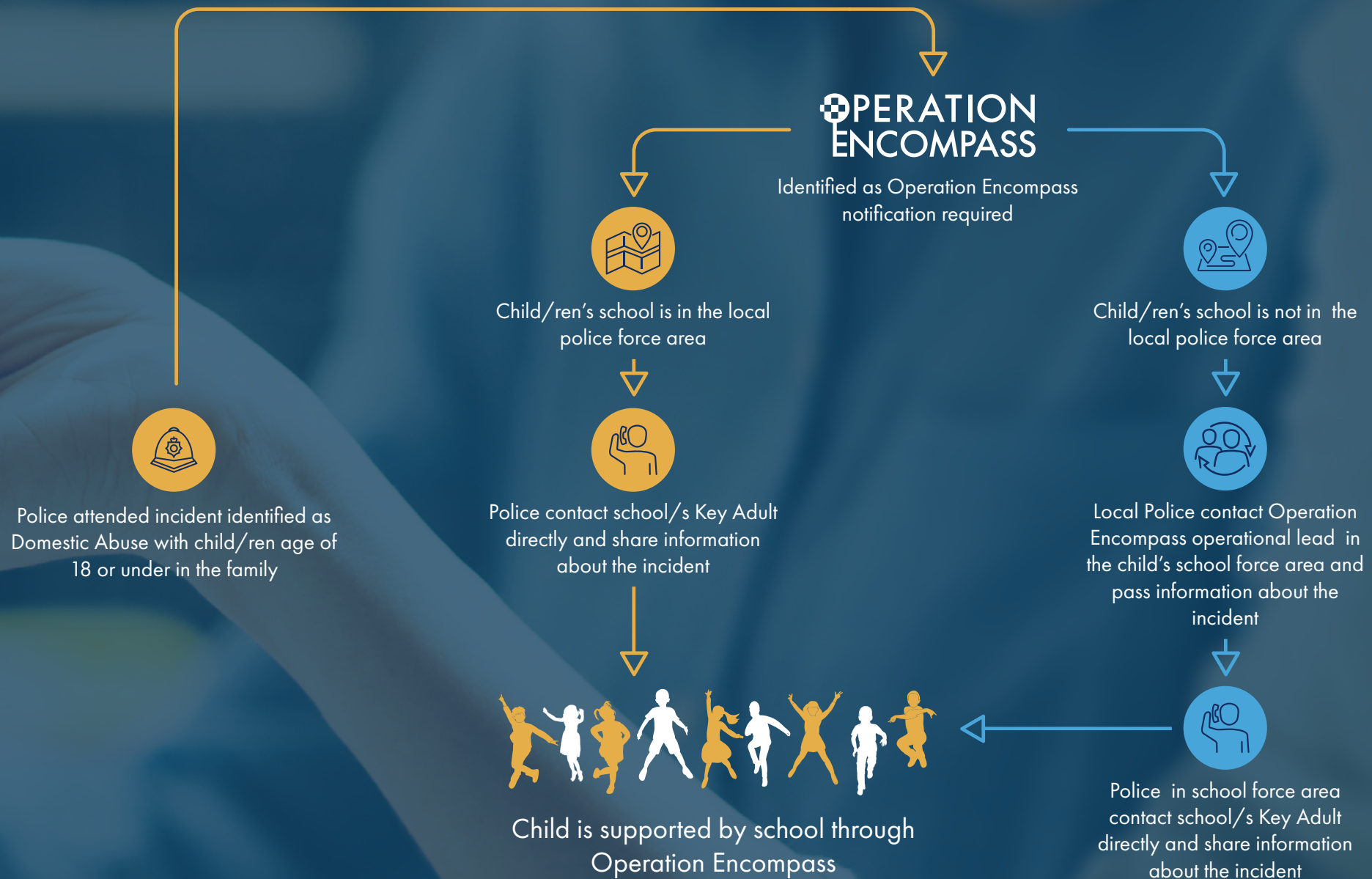
- The name and date of birth of any child from that educational setting who is related to any adult involved in the incident.
- The relationship of the child to the adult victim and to the perpetrator.
- The police reference number.
- The location, time and date of the incident.
- If the children were present and if so where (notifications should be shared even if the child was not present at this particular incident).
- The Voice of the child¹⁰.
- If the child was spoken to what they said and if this conversation was in the presence of another adult or just with the police officer.
- The Context, the circumstances of the event: This is the crucial part where officers consider what an educational setting needs to know about the child's living experience, about this incident that they are attending so that they can safely, securely and compassionately support the child in their care without putting them at any greater risk or accidentally retraumatising them through actions or words.

*A poorly timed Operation Encompass Notification which does not arrive **before** the child attends the Educational Setting can place the child victim at greater risk of retraumatisation and removes the ability of that setting to appropriately support the child*

*The **absence** or **insufficiency** of information contained within the Operation Encompass notification can place the child victim at greater risk of harm. It is not enough to merely notify the educational setting that there has been a domestic incident*



Police Information Sharing Pathways



Adolescent To Parent Violence & Abuse



Police attended incident where APVA has occurred treated as Domestic Abuse



Young Person using abusive behaviour against parent receives safeguarding response including identifying Operation Encompass notification required



Siblings are identified as victims requiring Operation Encompass notification



Parent victim is given appropriate Domestic Abuse response and support



Police contact school/s Key Adult directly and share information about the incident



Child/ren supported by school through Operation Encompass

Key Principles: Schools

- The Level 3 safeguarding trained staff and their deputy/ies must be the Key Adults in terms of Operation Encompass. We use the title Key Adult as the safeguarding role is variously described dependent upon the part of the UK and world in which the school is operating.
- All Key Adults should undertake the free online Operation Encompass National Key Adult Training which can be accessed directly from the Operation Encompass website: www.operationencompass.org. All school staff and governors can undertake this free training.
- If the school is receiving telephone calls from the police, then Key Adults need to be available prior to the start of the school day to receive this information.
- If the notification is via an email then the educational setting must provide the police with a secure, generically named email address which can only be accessed by the trained Key Adults. If the notification is via a different electronic method then the educational setting should follow the police force guidance. The Key Adult must ensure, as a minimum, that this is checked prior to the start of each school day.
- The school's participation in Operation Encompass should:
 - be known and understood by all staff including school governors;
 - form part of the school's safeguarding policy¹¹;
 - be part of the safeguarding information on the school website;
 - form part of the school's communication with new families;
 - be visible in school through the use of the Operation Encompass posters;
 - lead to training for all staff about domestic abuse, the impact on children and the simple ways in which schools can support these children;
 - support staff and children by using the resources available on the Operation Encompass website www.operationencompass.org.
- Key Adults can share examples of good practice with other schools and Key Adults via the [Operation Encompass website](http://www.operationencompass.org).

Early Years

Operation Encompass should be used for all children from 28 weeks of pregnancy through to 5 years of age. This means that notifications should be sent to Health Visitors, the trained Key Adults in Early Years' settings and school nurseries. There is a booklet about Early Years' Notifications on the Operation Encompass website - www.operationencompass.org - and specific information about the harm caused to these young victims in the free National Online Operation Encompass Training.

Support from Operation Encompass

- All materials and resources available on the website are free for police and educational settings to use - www.operationencompass.org
- We provide 'in person' briefings to police forces.
- We provide virtual briefings.

The Teachers' Helpline

The Helpline provides advice and guidance for educational professionals about Operation Encompass.

Access to Educational or Clinical Psychologists can enable staff in educational settings to discuss how best to support individual children who are experiencing domestic abuse, or to discuss whole school policies for supporting children.

Call the Operation Encompass Teachers' Helpline:

0204 513 9990

(Charged at local rate)

Monday to Friday 8am to 1pm.

Online Key Adult Training

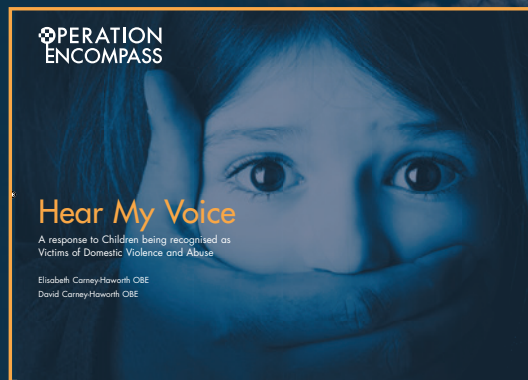
The online Operation Encompass National Key Adult Training is available from the Operation Encompass website: www.operationencompass.org. All new Key Adults should undertake this training but it is available for all DSL, DDSLs. We also encourage all school staff to undertake the training, especially the Safeguarding Governor. All participants can download a certificate once the training has been completed.

Sharing Additional Vulnerabilities

We are supporting a number of forces who are using the Operation Encompass Information Sharing Platform to share additional child vulnerabilities with schools, including children who are missing from home or from care.

Please contact info@operationencompass.org for advice and support.

Handbooks



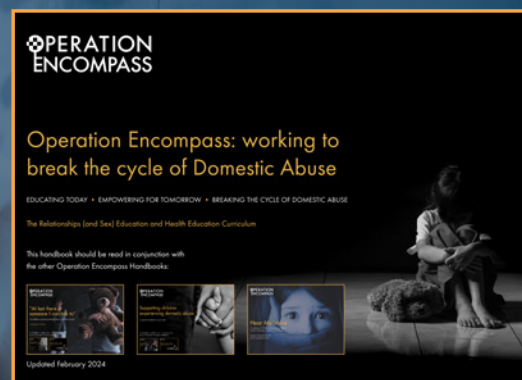
This handbook summarises the changes that we want to see in response to children being recognised as victims of DA. Many of the recommendations can be enacted by both schools, health and police, others require national action.



This Handbook summaries some of the very simple ways in which school staff can support children experiencing DA. The handbook stresses that we are not expecting teachers and staff to be therapists or counsellors whilst recognising the tremendously positive impact that schools can have for vulnerable children.



This Handbook, supported by the Home Office, the DfE and NASEN, explains why we should recognise children experiencing DA as one of the vulnerable groups within our schools and then what actions we should take to support these children.



This Handbook explores how schools can teach the DA aspect of the RE/RSE/HE curriculum from nursery through to KS5. Key themes are identified which schools can use to thread into their current work.



This Child's Victim Support Code can be adopted by all agencies that work with children, including police, schools, Education Leads, Social Care, Health, Child Safeguarding Partnerships, PCCs, the Home Office and the UK Government.



This Continuum of Support summaries what children should be able to expect from the professionals who care for them, including importantly that their voice is sought, heard and responded to, especially in terms of the support they may want and need.



There is also a handbook which contains book review for resources which may be helpful to use in the RE/RSE/HE Curriculum.

Psychology Associates
OPERATION ENCOMPASS
Teachers' Helpline: 0204 513 9990

Guidance and advice for staff working with young children:

Early Years

Ms Roisin Salt, Wellbeing Practitioner

Ofsted
hpcpc
registered
www.hpcpc.org

Psychology Associates: enquiry@psychologyassociates.org.uk | www.psychologyassociates.org.uk | 0844 024 240
Operation Encompass: info@operationencompass.org.uk | www.operationencompass.org.uk

There is a set of videos available in which Educational Psychologists discuss ways to support children experiencing DA.

A photograph of three children hugging each other from behind, with a dark blue overlay. The child in the middle is wearing a white t-shirt with black stars. The child on the left is wearing a dark shirt with colorful polka dots. The child on the right is wearing a purple top.

Please contact us directly for further information, advice or guidance: info@operationencompass.org

A person is seen from behind, standing in a field with their arms raised high in the air. The background is a soft, hazy sunset or sunrise sky with warm colors. The person is wearing a light-colored t-shirt.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

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www.operationencompass.org