

Subject: Important Safeguarding Update – Our School is an Operation Encompass School

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Maple Court Academy the safety, well-being, and happiness of your children are our absolute priorities. Because of this, we want to inform you about an important safeguarding initiative that our school participates in, called **Operation Encompass**.

What is Operation Encompass?

Operation Encompass is a nationwide partnership between police forces and schools. It is designed to provide immediate support to children and young people who have been present at, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident in their home.

We know that domestic abuse can be incredibly traumatizing for children. Going to school the next day carrying that worry, fear, or lack of sleep can make learning and coping very difficult. Operation Encompass ensures that we can support our pupils when they need it most.

How does it work?

If police attend a domestic abuse incident where a child is present, involved, or living in the home, they will make confidential contact with our school before the start of the next school day.

This information is shared securely and only with our school's trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Cottis).

How does this help your child?

By knowing that a child has experienced a difficult night, our staff can quietly and discreetly wrap support around them from the moment they walk through the school gates. This "early intervention" support is entirely confidential and tailored to the child's needs. Depending on the situation, it might include:

- **Overt support:** Providing a quiet space if they are tired or upset, offering a warm breakfast, or adjusting classroom expectations and deadlines for the day.
- **Covert support:** Simply keeping a watchful, caring eye on them and ensuring they have a calm, predictable, and safe environment throughout the school day.
- **Emotional support:** Facilitating a chat with a trusted staff member or member of the pastoral team if the child wishes to talk.

Our goal is not to judge or intrude, but simply to be there as a safe haven for your child during a stressful time.

Where to find more information

We are incredibly proud to be an Operation Encompass school, helping to ensure that no child has to suffer in silence.

If you would like to find out more about this initiative, you can visit the official website at www.operationencompass.org.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact our school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Cottis.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our children safe, happy, and supported.

Warm regards,

Mrs Chloe Cottis

Designated Safeguarding Lead