



13th March 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Operation Encompass

I am writing to let you know about a new innovative project that schools in Gateshead will be participating in. The project, called Operation Encompass, is being run in partnership with both Gateshead Council and Northumbria Police.

The project, which will commence in February 2015, aims to support children who are affected by Domestic Abuse. Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing for a young person, who can often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards or be physically hurt trying to stop the abuse.

As a result, following any domestic abuse incident being reported into Northumbria Police, specialist Police Officers will make contact with the school and communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support in a way that means the child feels safe.

Each school has a member of staff (key adult) who has been fully trained to liaise with the Police, when required, and will ensure that necessary support is made available to the child following the disclosure of a domestic abuse incident.

I believe that this project demonstrates the schools commitment to working in partnership, to safeguard and protect children, and to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone further about the project or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or DC Gill Menzies on 0191 433 2450 or by email OperationEncompass@Gateshead.gcsx.Gov.Uk. You can also find out more information through accessing the following website: <http://www.operationencompass.org/>

Yours faithfully,

H Martin
Headteacher



VERA BAIRD^{QC}
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER



**NORTHUMBRIA
POLICE**