

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Westfield wanted to make you all aware of an initiative we're involved with in conjunction with Cheshire Police called Operation Encompass. This operation concentrates on supporting children whose parents suffer domestic abuse by ensuring that police inform the school of any incidents at the child's home that have involved police being called. There is evidence from the schools involved across the country that the process of early reporting has a meaningful impact on learning as well as emotional health and well-being. The children are receiving support they would not have previously had. Operation Encompass has also enabled domestic abuse to become an issue which can be discussed. In other schools parents have acknowledged the impact that domestic abuse has upon their children and have opened up about what is happening at home as they know the school will have already been informed of an incident by the police. They will also come in and report incidents that have occurred which may not have led to the police being called, but will still have caused distress to the children.

Detective Chief Inspector Nigel Wenham of Cheshire Police has said that *"The evidence demonstrates it is a really effective way of communicating between schools and police, to put safeguards in place. It works. This is priority for everybody. If not, then we have some serious questions to ask ourselves. Our experience of Operation Encompass is clear – we found it to be beneficial to improve safeguarding and for the protection of children involved in domestic abuse."*

For further information about the initiative you can visit www.operationencompass.org. We now have two Family Support Officers in school for the support of pupils and their families. If you think we may be able to help out in any way, or if there are any services or support that we may be able to offer you, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you have any queries please give the Office a call on the above number or alternatively email admin.westfield@halton.gov.uk

