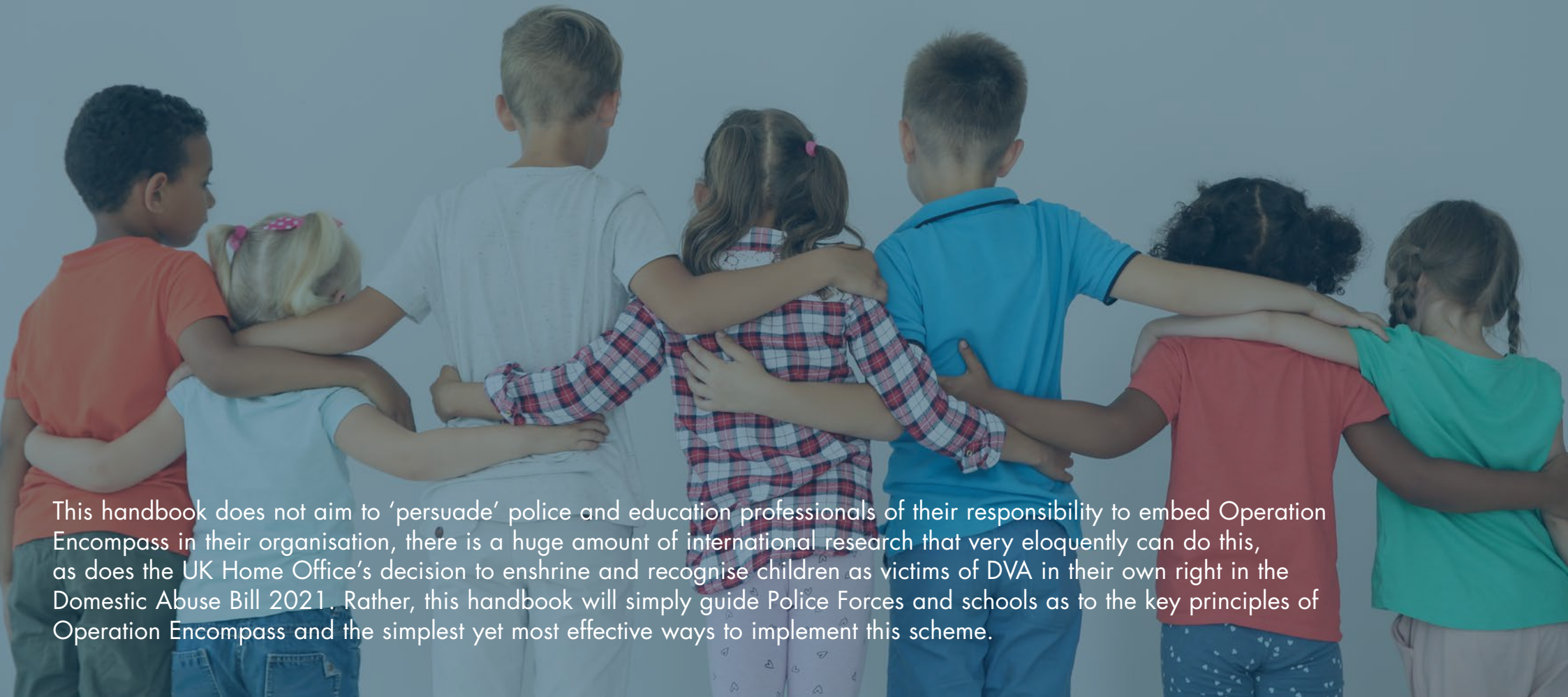




# Guide to Implementing Operation Encompass



This handbook does not aim to 'persuade' police and education professionals of their responsibility to embed Operation Encompass in their organisation, there is a huge amount of international research that very eloquently can do this, as does the UK Home Office's decision to enshrine and recognise children as victims of DVA in their own right in the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021. Rather, this handbook will simply guide Police Forces and schools as to the key principles of Operation Encompass and the simplest yet most effective ways to implement this scheme.



# Operation Encompass is a police and school<sup>1</sup> early intervention safeguarding information sharing partnership which supports children<sup>2</sup> experiencing<sup>3</sup> 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.'<sup>4</sup>

**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**.

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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

- **All police**<sup>5</sup> attended Domestic Violence and abuse incidents are shared with a school's trained Key Adult<sup>6</sup> ( this must be the Level 3 trained DSL, DDSL/DSO).
- Information should be passed to schools about all school aged children, this can mean 2 to 18 years of age.
- This information is shared with the schools **prior**<sup>7</sup> to the start of the next school day.
- DVA incidents from Friday through the weekend should be shared with the Key Adult on a Monday morning.
- DVA incidents during school holidays should also be shared.
- Incidents of child to parent abuse should be shared.
- Incidents of teenage relationship abuse should be shared.
- As all forces in England and Wales are now part of Operation Encompass cross border incidents should be passed wherever possible.

## The information shared should include:

- The context<sup>8</sup> of the DVA incident is shared so that the child /ren can be appropriately supported without putting anyone at risk.
- Information about whether or not the child was at the premises/area where the incident occurred and if in the home, where the child was.
- Time of incident.
- The adults involved in the DVA incident.
- The voice of the child, including their demeanour.
- Police should collect data including numbers of children involved in notifications to schools.
- If electronic methods of delivery are used then this should be to a secure 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.
- 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.
- It would be helpful for all forces to share with Operation Encompass a direct contact email (rather than a generic email) and a telephone number for a member of police staff responsible for Operation Encompass.

<sup>5</sup> Crime and non-crime should be shared

<sup>6</sup> Key Adult should undertake specific Operation Encompass training (free online training available from [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org))

<sup>7</sup> Information should be available to the Key Adult before the child arrives at school , preferably prior to 8.30am

<sup>8</sup> It is not appropriate to merely inform the school that there has been a DVA incident, this can put the adult and child victims at greater risk

# 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 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 online Key Adult training accessed free from the Operation Encompass website [www.operationencompass.org](http://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 electronic then the Key Adults must ensure that this is checked and opened prior to the start of the 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 policy<sup>9</sup>;
  - 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](http://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 is currently working on Early Years' Pilots and further information will be made available as soon as possible.

## Support from Operation Encompass

All materials and resources available on the website are free for police and schools to use - [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org)

## The Teacher's Helpline

The Helpline is there to provide immediate and free access for school staff to Educational or Clinical Psychologists. The Psychologists will answer the calls and can offer advice and guidance about how best to support individual children or to discuss whole school policies and practices about supporting children experiencing Domestic Abuse.

## Online Key Adult Training

Our online Key Adult Training is available from our website: [www.operationencompass.org](http://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.



**OPERATION ENCOMPASS**

Are you concerned about a child or children in your school who are experiencing domestic abuse?

Would you like FREE advice and a professional dialogue with an Education Psychologist about how to best support them?

Call the Operation Encompass Teachers' Helpline

**0204 513 9990**

(Charged at local rate)

Monday to Friday 8.00am to **EXTENDED TO 1.00pm**

Funded by  
Home Office  
Department for Education



**OPERATION ENCOMPASS**

HOME ABOUT US ONLINE KEY ADULT TRAINING POLICE FORCES SCHOOLS COVID-19

## ONLINE KEY ADULT TRAINING

Home > Online Key Adult Training

Whilst we will still deliver face to face Key Adult briefings, we are thrilled to have developed an online training package in partnership with Virtual College. This free training is available to all schools and education settings- even if your school is not yet part of Operation Encompass. The training updates staff members' knowledge of child victims of domestic abuse.

This training will also assist you in developing the skills and knowledge to fully embed Operation Encompass in your school or education setting.

If you would like to access the key adult briefing modules, please follow the below steps.

[Please click this link to register for the online training](#)



# Handbooks



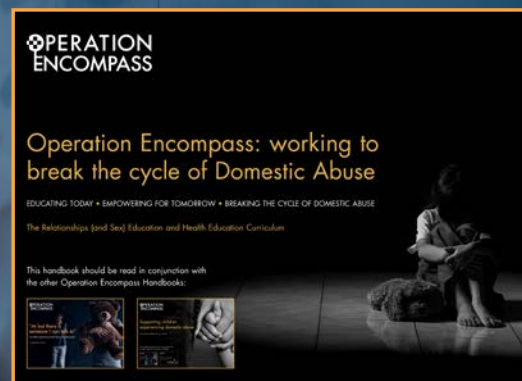
This handbook summarises the changes that we want to see in response to children being recognised as victims of DA. Many of the recommendations can be enacted by both schools, health and police, others require national action.



This Handbook summarises 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.

### The Child's Victim Support Code

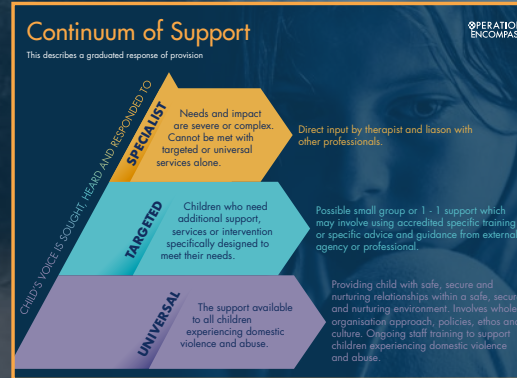
This code sets out the key rights and minimum level of support that children experiencing domestic violence and abuse should expect from all professionals. Professionals includes, but is not limited to, police, health, education, local authorities, domestic violence and abuse support services and the judiciary.

**MYVOICE**

- M** Children have the right to have their voice heard.
- Y** Experiencing domestic violence and abuse should be recognised as a child's rights issue included in the DVAC.
- V** Children have the right to report domestic violence and abuse to police.
- O** Children have the right to be supported by people working with them.
- I** Children have the right to experience day-to-day life without fear.
- E** Children have the right to be included and consulted in the decision-making process following DA.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

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.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

### Book Reviews

PART ONE

The Relationships (and Sex) Education and Health Education Curriculum

Psychology Associates

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 Roslin Salt, Wellbeing Practitioner

Ofsted  
hoped  
hoped  
registered  
www.hoped.org

Psychology Associates: [encompass@psychologyassociates.co.uk](mailto:encompass@psychologyassociates.co.uk) | [www.psychologyassociates.co.uk](http://www.psychologyassociates.co.uk) | 0204 513 9990  
Operation Encompass: [info@operationencompass.org.uk](mailto:info@operationencompass.org.uk) | [www.operationencompass.org.uk](http://www.operationencompass.org.uk)

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



Please contact us directly for further information, advice or guidance: [info@operationencompass.org](mailto:info@operationencompass.org)



# OPERATION ENCOMPASS

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