

HZ/LT

22nd April 2014

Dear Parent/Carer



Inspiring Optimistic Learners

Operation Encompass

'Encompass is as powerful as it is simple, and can make a real difference to a child's day. It has the well-being and safety of children at its very core' – Councillor Nicky Williams, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People (2013).

I am writing to let you know that we are pleased to be involved in '**Operation Encompass**'. Operation Encompass is a project involving early year's settings and schools in Plymouth, working in conjunction with Devon & Cornwall Police and Plymouth City Council. Operation Encompass has been running in schools for some time and has now been extended to include us, Torpoint Community College and Carbeile Junior School. It is hoped that in the future, more schools in Cornwall will be involved and eventually nationwide.

The project (Encompass) has been designed to provide early reporting of any domestic abuse which could affect a child or young person's wellbeing, behaviour or performance during the day. We will be notified through a phone call or email following an incident.

Encompass ensures that at least one member of staff, known as the 'key adult' is trained to liaise with the Police/Plymouth City Council and to use the information that has been shared, **in confidence**. In this way, we aim to support each young person who has experienced a domestic abuse incident. We as a College, have two key adults, **Mrs Sue Fowell the Student Support Centre Manager and Mrs Lynn Trotter, PA to the Headteacher**. If Mrs Fowell or Mrs Trotter receives an Encompass call, they will make sure that a person the young person trusts is available to help the next day – if the young person needs this. Most of the time, we will do nothing except keep a watchful eye to make sure the young person has a calm day and feels as safe and secure as possible. At other times, it may simply be a case of letting the young person know that we understand and acknowledge the reasons behind their possible tiredness or behaviour.

The confidential information received regarding the incident is ordinarily not shared with other staff – they may just be asked by the key adult to keep an extra close eye on the young person. **We do however, have a duty to share information with other organisations if we feel a young person has been, or is at risk of significant harm.** There may be times therefore, that the key adult must contact other organisations to share the information received. This will be referred to in our Child Protection Policy.

We are keen to support both our young people and families. Parents can come and talk to our key adults or whoever they feel most comfortable with if they choose. We can then advise of other people that can help – **please be rest assured, your information will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence.**

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The Police will continue to support Operation Encompass and local officers from our Neighbourhood Policing Teams are available to visit us at pre-arranged times to help support the young people and offer guidance to parents/carers who feel they would benefit from advice around domestic abuse.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to our young people and families and we believe this initiative is going to be extremely beneficial and possibly even a life line, for all those involved.

If you would like further information, please contact either of our two key adults, Mrs Sue Fowell on fowell.s@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk or Mrs Lynn Trotter at trotter.l@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk. Alternatively, you can contact our confidential email address at worries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk with any concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Hazeldine', written in a cursive style.

Andrea Hazeldine
Headteacher

