



Operation Encompass is a police and education safeguarding partnership that enables schools and educational settings to provide timely support to children who may have been exposed to domestic abuse.

As we prepare for the start of the new school year, we wanted to get in touch to ensure everything is in place for Op Encompass, to support our continued partnership in keeping children safe across Sussex.

Do we have the correct email address for your setting?

Please ensure that we have the correct email address for you to receive Op Encompass notifications, such as **DSL@** or **Safeguarding@**, rather than an individual staff member's email address. This helps ensure continuity and timely access to notifications when key staff are absent.

If your email address has changed, please let us know by emailing the relevant Op Encompass email address for your area.

Is your training up to date?

The [Operation Encompass website](#) contains a range of guidance, training materials and resources to support schools and educational settings in responding appropriately to notifications and supporting children affected by domestic abuse.

DSLs should ensure that they are familiar with **current guidance** and that relevant safeguarding staff access training and resources as required.



Do you know your role when a notification is received?

The purpose of an Operation Encompass notification is to enable the school or setting to take appropriate safeguarding actions and provide support to a child who may have been affected by a domestic abuse incident.

Following receipt of a notification, DSLs and relevant safeguarding staff should remain alert to any changes in the child's presentation or wellbeing. Children may:

- Appear upset, anxious or more emotional than usual.
- Be unsettled or withdrawn.
- Have difficulty concentrating or focusing on learning.
- Display changes in behaviour.
- Show signs of tiredness due to disrupted sleep.
- Require additional support, reassurance or practical assistance.

Operation Encompass notifications are provided to support the child's welfare. Staff are **not expected to initiate discussions** with the child (or parents/carers) about the incident solely because a notification has been received. Support should be provided in a sensitive and proportionate manner, with staff responding appropriately to any concerns or disclosures made by the child.

Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Operation Encompass notifications must be handled in accordance with the Operation Encompass Information Sharing Agreement, data protection legislation, and your setting's information governance and confidentiality policies.

Information contained within a notification should only be shared on a **need-to-know basis** with staff who require the information to support the child's safety and wellbeing. It should not be shared with individuals or agencies outside the setting unless there is a lawful safeguarding reason to do so.



Responding to Disclosures

If a child makes a disclosure relating to the incident, or if additional safeguarding concerns arise, DSLs should follow their setting's safeguarding procedures and make a referral to the local **Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)**.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding Operation Encompass please contact

Michelle Redshaw, Sussex Police Op Encompass lead on:

Michelle.redshaw@sussex.police.uk

Or the relevant Op Encompass email address for your area, these are managed by a dedicated team who will get back to you asap.