

## **Operation Encompass**

**January 2018**

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

WQE, in line with all other Leicester and Leicestershire schools and colleges, is part of a safeguarding initiative, **Operation Encompass**, which aims to improve outcomes for our young people and their families who are affected by domestic violence and abuse. This process has been working in Leicestershire and other parts of the UK for some time and is being implemented in Leicester imminently. In Leicester and Leicestershire the scheme is run in partnership between the County and/or City Councils and Leicestershire Police.

This scheme has been designed to provide early reporting to us of any domestic abuse incidents that might have an impact on a student who attends WQE. It has been introduced because domestic abuse in a household can have a big impact on a young person, even if they do not see what is happening or when not a direct victim of the abuse.

All public agencies currently share information where there are safeguarding concerns or risk of harm to children and young people and the Police currently share information on all incidents of domestic abuse in Leicester and Leicestershire with the relevant Council.

To further support the welfare of our young people this information sharing is being extended. During term time our WQE Designated Safeguarding Lead will now be informed when any domestic abuse incident has been reported to the Police and one of our students was in the household.

This information will be used to ensure that WQE is able to provide appropriate support to our students. The information will remain **confidential** and only shared on a strictly need-to-know basis.

We look to offer the best support possible for our students and believe that this scheme to be beneficial and supportive for all those involved. In other areas of the country where it is in place it has been found to be a very effective way of supporting young people at a most difficult time.

If you would like to speak to someone in confidence about domestic abuse or sexual violence, call the United Against Violence and Abuse (UAVA) helpline on 0800 80 200 28. The helpline is open 8am to 8am Monday to Saturday. You can also visit [www.uava.org.uk](http://www.uava.org.uk)

You can also email us directly and confidentially [safeguarding@wqe.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@wqe.ac.uk) in relation to this or any safeguarding matter.

**Sue Ashwin – Vice Principal (Designated Safeguarding Lead)**