

St. Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Operation Encompass Policy



"I came so that you may have life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10

St Michael Catholic Primary School and Nursery is a Catholic family of faith following the teachings of Christ. We strive to create an environment where all members of our school community respect the values of: Church, Independence, Resilience, Caring, Learning and Enjoyment for all. Belief in these values will nurture all as individuals and instil in them the confidence to meet their full potential, providing them with the best grounding for their future place in an ever-changing world.

Policy Date	September 2026
Signed by Head Teacher	Mrs N Collins
Review Date	September 2027

Policy Statement

St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children.

We recognise that children who experience domestic abuse, witness domestic abuse or are exposed to traumatic incidents within the home may be significantly affected emotionally, socially and academically.

Operation Encompass is a safeguarding initiative which enables schools to receive timely information from the police following incidents of domestic abuse where a child has been present, witnessed the incident or may otherwise have been affected.

This information sharing supports schools in providing appropriate care, understanding and support for children at the earliest possible opportunity.

Operation Encompass forms part of the school's wider safeguarding responsibilities and should be read alongside the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

What is Operation Encompass?

Operation Encompass is a national safeguarding partnership between schools and police services.

Its purpose is to ensure that schools are informed, before the start of the next school day wherever possible, when a child has been involved in, present during, or otherwise affected by a domestic abuse incident attended by the police.

The sharing of information enables schools to better understand a child's circumstances and provide appropriate support, care and reassurance.

Operation Encompass complements existing safeguarding procedures and strengthens partnership working between schools, police and other safeguarding agencies.

Aims

The aims of Operation Encompass are:

- To support children who may have been affected by domestic abuse.
- To ensure schools receive relevant safeguarding information promptly.
- To improve outcomes for children through early support.

- To strengthen partnership working between schools, police and safeguarding agencies.
 - To ensure children feel safe, supported and understood in school.
 - To reduce barriers to learning and wellbeing following traumatic events.
-

How Operation Encompass Works

When police attend a domestic abuse incident where a child may have been affected, they will share relevant information with the school through Operation Encompass procedures.

The information shared will usually include:

- The name of the child.
- The fact that a domestic abuse incident has occurred.
- Relevant safeguarding information necessary to support the child.

The information will be received by trained Key Adults within the school.

Information received through Operation Encompass will be treated as confidential safeguarding information.

Operation Encompass Key Adults

St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School has trained Key Adults responsible for receiving and managing Operation Encompass information.

These adults are:

- Headteacher
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs)

The Key Adults are responsible for:

- Receiving information.
- Recording concerns appropriately.

- Sharing information on a need-to-know basis.
 - Ensuring suitable support is available for the child.
 - Maintaining confidentiality.
-

How the School Uses Operation Encompass Information

When information is received, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider the most appropriate support for the child.

This may include:

- Informing relevant staff on a need-to-know basis.
- Monitoring wellbeing and welfare.
- Providing emotional support.
- Offering access to pastoral provision.
- Allowing time, space and understanding where needed.
- Liaising with external agencies where appropriate.

All information will be recorded securely on CPOMS in line with safeguarding procedures.

The sharing of information does not automatically lead to intervention. Instead, it helps school staff understand a child's circumstances and respond with sensitivity and appropriate support.

Support for Children

St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School adopts a child-centred approach to safeguarding.

Where appropriate, support may include:

- Check-ins with trusted adults.
- Access to pastoral support.
- Access to the Rainbow Room.

- Emotional regulation support.
- Mental health and wellbeing support.
- Additional safeguarding support where required.

The key aim is to ensure that children receive understanding, reassurance and appropriate care following potentially distressing experiences.

Working with Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are usually informed by the police that information will be shared with the child's school through Operation Encompass.

The school recognises the importance of working in partnership with families whilst ensuring that safeguarding remains the highest priority.

Staff will always act in the best interests of the child and in accordance with safeguarding procedures.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Information received through Operation Encompass is confidential and will be handled in accordance with:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Data Protection legislation
- The school's safeguarding procedures

Information will only be shared with staff who need to know in order to support the child effectively.

Safeguarding

Operation Encompass forms part of the school's safeguarding arrangements.

The school recognises that children affected by domestic abuse may experience:

- Emotional distress
- Anxiety
- Trauma
- Changes in behaviour
- Difficulties with concentration and learning
- Attendance concerns
- Wider safeguarding vulnerabilities

All concerns arising from Operation Encompass notifications will be managed through the school's safeguarding procedures.

Any additional concerns will be referred promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Monitoring and Review

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Senior Leadership Team.

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if changes in legislation, safeguarding guidance or Operation Encompass procedures require amendment.

Linked Policies

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Child-on-Child Abuse Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Children Missing Education Policy

- Staff Code of Conduct

Through Operation Encompass, St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School seeks to ensure that children affected by domestic abuse receive timely support, understanding and protection so that they can continue to thrive, feel safe and experience life in all its fullness.