

Friday 27 November 2020

Dear families,

Unfortunately, both nationally and locally, there has been a significant increase in domestic violence over the past year. Domestic Violence is usually about one person's desire to control their partner, even if they are not aware of this themselves.

There are different forms of abuse, but if your relationship leaves you feeling scared, intimidated or controlled, it's possible you're in an abusive relationship. Sadly if it has happened once, it is likely to happen again.

School and Higher Education Notifications (DVA Notifications Process) has been established to support children and families who are resident in households where there are incidents of domestic violence and abuse. We know that children can be physically or emotionally hurt by being either present in the house or directly witnessing an incident of domestic violence.

The DVA Notification Process has been designed to provide confidential notification to schools and higher education establishments on any incidents of domestic violence and abuse which occur within a child's household that might have an impact on a child's wellbeing.

This process ensures that a member of the safeguarding team is able to use the information that has been shared, in confidence to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in or witnessed a domestic violence or abuse incident. As a school we are able to use this information to provide additional support to any student or family that has experienced domestic violence.

If you would like further support or information about domestic violence and abuse please go to [www.bradford.gov.uk/your-community/domestic-abuse/help-and-support](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/your-community/domestic-abuse/help-and-support) or [www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/bradford](http://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/bradford). You can also call the free 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000247.

We are here to help you and your family. If you have any questions or if you need any support in terms of the pastoral or safeguarding needs of your child, please do email me at: [m.sanderson@dixonsca.com](mailto:m.sanderson@dixonsca.com).

Yours sincerely

Mr Sanderson

Vice Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead

