



St Vincent's Catholic Primary School Parents' Safeguarding Newsletter- Autumn 22

Each term we will bring the latest safeguarding developments and information to you in order that we all work together to keep our school community safe.

Safeguarding Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Harrop
Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Farrell, Mrs Sutton
Designated Looked After Child Lead	Mrs Farrell
Designated Mental Health Lead	Mrs Sutton
Mental Health First Aiders	Mrs Harrop, Mrs Farrell, Mrs Sutton Mrs Castro, Mrs Gee
Emergency First Aiders	All staff
Wellbeing Champions	Mrs Sheldon, Mrs Bullock, Mrs Dreniw, Mrs Davidson, Mrs Raw
Safeguarding Governor	Mrs Donnachie
Online Safety Governor	Mrs Butler
Health and Safety Governor	Mr Thorgaard

Domestic Abuse

Definition of domestic abuse

Any incident or course of conduct involving controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (e.g. physical, sexual, economic, psychological, emotional or other abuse such as reproductive coercion) between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been personally connected, (e.g. intimate partners/ex-partners or family members) regardless of gender or sexuality. Abuse can be direct or indirect (e.g. through a child). *adapted from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021*

Domestic abuse is more than physical

Domestic abuse is not just physical violence hence the move from talking about domestic violence to talking about domestic abuse. Many people experiencing violence report the psychological and emotional impact as having greater impact. Many people are manipulated and abused without physical violence. All of these experiences have an impact on children and young people.

Domestic abuse also falls within wider Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA) strategies.

Statistics

At least 1 in 4 women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.

Around 1 in 13 men will be victims of domestic abuse.

We think 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse.

However, over the last two years since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic, there has been a substantial rise in calls to NSPCC about children and domestic abuse and in reported domestic abuse cases.

We know that there is a high degree of under-reporting from both males and females, this being linked to many different factors including shame, blaming themselves for their partner's behaviour, believing that it is an inherent part of the relationship. This therefore means that the real figures are likely to be significantly higher.

Data in the UK suggests that on average victims will live with domestic abuse for around 3 years before getting help. Domestic and sexual violence or abuse can be frequent and persistent with the highest repeat victimisation of any crime.

Impact

The impact of violence and abuse can be devastating. Many victims suffer physical harm, which is fatal in extreme cases. Death may result from the violence itself or through suicide because the abuse and subsequent mental illness has made their life difficult to bear. Other victims may lose their home, be unable to hold down a job or a relationship, and become isolated from friends and family. Children may also be at risk, either by witnessing violence or by being victims of abuse themselves. Almost a quarter of all children will have been exposed to physical violence and / or threatening behaviour from an adult partner or ex-partner to their parent (NSPCC).

Impact on children and young people

Children are suffering multiple physical and mental health consequences as a result of exposure to domestic abuse. Children see parents or carers suffer, often at the hands of someone else they love. They suffer physical, sexual and emotional abuse themselves. Sometimes they are forced into colluding with the violent partner; sometimes they feel deeply responsible for the non-abusing parent or carer, or for their brothers and sisters. Children can be further affected when adult victims of domestic abuse sometimes find it difficult to be the caring, supportive parents they would want to be, even after leaving the abusive relationship, because they have been hurt and traumatised by their experiences.

In relationships where there is domestic violence, children witness about three-quarters of the abusive incidents. About half the children in such families have themselves been badly hit or beaten. Sexual abuse and emotional abuse are also more likely to happen in these families.



Help and Guidance

There are many agencies available to help. We are here to help at school and can offer support and guidance. If you are a victim of domestic abuse or you may think someone is a victim of domestic abuse please contact these agencies.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-violence-and-abuse-help-from-dwp>

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/>

<https://mensadviceline.org.uk/>