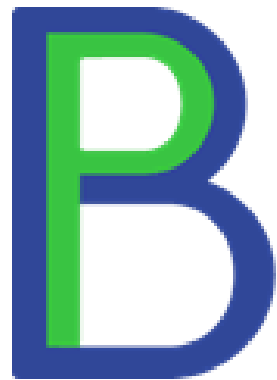


# Coffee Morning

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Domestic Abuse



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**Brentfield Primary School**

Children of Today, Champions for Tomorrow

# What is domestic abuse?

It takes place in an intimate or family relationship.

- between husband and wife, boyfriend and girlfriend, parent and grandparent - any family relationship

- Physical
- Psychological/Emotional
- Sexual
- Financial

[Women's Aid: Spot The Abuse - YouTube](#)

Domestic abuse is a pattern of controlling and coercive behaviour.

If a person is forced to change their behaviour because they are frightened of another person's reaction, that is abuse.

### [Do You See Her - YouTube](#)

#### Recognise Abuse

- shouting, threatening, name calling
- Disrespectful - ignoring, putting them down, refusing to help
- Isolation - keeping them from family and friends, checking their phone, blocking calls
- Threats - breaking things, using a weapon, going to hurt them or the children
- Sexual Violence
- Breaking trust - lying, being jealous, having affairs
- Pressure tactics - making them lie to family & friends, the children will be harmed or taken away

# Denial

The person thinks or says they caused the abuse.  
Feels they deserve the treatment they are getting.  
Saying or thinking the abuse isn't happening.  
Telling themselves that it won't happen again.  
Telling themselves the other person is 'Sorry'.

# Operation Encompass

Partnership between the Police and Schools

- when the police are called to a home for domestic abuse and a child is there, the school is informed.
- allows early support to be put in place for the child/ren

Children are negatively impacted by domestic abuse and without support can be affected for the rest of their lives.

# The Impact of Domestic Abuse on Families and Children – The Sobering Facts

- Statistics show **1 in 4 women** and **1 in 6 men** will experience some form of Domestic Abuse
- That's **8.5%** of women and **4.5%** of men each year.
- Studies looking at children who suffered serious injury through abuse and neglect show that **66%** came from homes where DA was an issue. That shows that If someone can be violent with adults there is a high likelihood that they can also treat the children this way also.
- **40%** of homicides in women are committed by partners or xpartners. **5%** of male homicides also.



# Barnados the childrens charity have shown

## Short term effects on children

- Bed wetting
- Increased sensitivity - crying
- Difficulty sleeping or falling asleep
- Separation anxiety

## School Aged Children

- A loss of drive to participate in activities and school
- Lower grades in school
- Feeling guilty and to blame for the abuse happening to them or in the home
- Getting into trouble more often
- Physical signs such as headaches and stomach aches
- Friendships can be affected

## Teenagers this can include

- Acting out in negative ways such as missing school or fighting with family members
- Having low self esteem
- Feeling different and isolated
- Finding it difficult to make friends
- Engaging in risky behaviors such as using alcohol and other drugs -often to deal with unresolved emotional pain



# Feeling unsafe can seriously affect childrens development and long term mental health

Through negative experiences we can become 'wired' to expect danger even when its not there.

The **fight or flight system** - our **Sympathetic Nervous System** - is like our internal '**Smoke Alarm**' and if we feel unsafe it can remain '**switched on**' and expectant of danger and this can have profound effects on **cognition** - Affecting the ability to think and learn greatly

High levels of the **stress hormone cortisol** impact a child's ability to retain information and to focus and has a negative effect on physical health and development.

Anxiety is exhausting and we can remain in survival mode unable to relax enough to socialise, learn or play.





# Support

## School

- Signpost to charities for domestic abuse

The charities can offer practical support

Your Rights

Housing

Legal Advice

Benefits

Counselling

- Support the child in school (Place 2Be)

- Make a referral to social care

Who can help if you are someone you know is being abused?

Women's Aid      Chayn      Southall Black Sisters  
Refuge      IKWRO      Asian Women's Resource Centre  
The DASH Charity      Solace Women's Aid  
The National Domestic Abuse Helpline

Respect - Men's Advice Line  
Mankind Initiative

[The 'secret' code if you call 999 but cannot speak | UK News | Sky News](#)