



Dear Parent/ Carer,

5th December 2021

Domestic Abuse - Safe Space

The Central Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Safe Spaces Scheme is part of the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Safe Spaces Scheme where specific locations within the community are available to:

- offer a safe space for somebody to go to who needs to access support
- offer a safe space for someone to contact a support service to help them safely

As over 85% of Domestic Abuse cases involve children, as a school we are keen to support this scheme and continue to be able to offer support to our children and their families.

A Safe Space is an area in our school that enables someone experiencing domestic abuse to be able to make a confidential call, use the internet safely to get help, pick up a leaflet or to just be somewhere safe. There will be a safe space at both of our school sites and support offered by a member of our Safeguarding team, access to a telephone, internet and information leaflets.

To access a safe space at our school you can either telephone and request use of a safe space or come to the school office and request to see ANI. The government has launched the Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) code word scheme to enable victims of domestic abuse to access immediate help from the police, or other support services. Our staff will understand that by requesting to see ANI you require a safe space.

What does Clare's law do?

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme ("Clare's Law") was legislation developed and introduced in the UK and Wales in 2014. The law allows the police to disclose information to victims of domestic violence, on request, about a partner's previous history of domestic/ intimate partner violence or violent acts.

<https://beta.beds.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/daa/domestic-abuse/alpha2/request-information-under-clares-law/>

Further safeguarding advice about Domestic Abuse and other safeguarding issues can be found on our school website <https://www.churchendlower.co.uk/safeguarding/> or <https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/information-and-services/crime/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse#84b9b83c>

Yours Sincerely
Mrs A Watts
Head of School & Designated Safeguarding Lead



Safe Space

What is a Safe Space?

- a place for you to go if you need to access support
- a place where you can contact a domestic abuse support service who will be able to help you safely

For more information, speak to a member of staff or contact BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

@bedsv
bedsv.org.uk