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Dear Parents/Carers,

Since September 2015, Elstow has been participating in the RELAY Scheme in partnership with Bedford Borough Council and Bedfordshire Police. The scheme is changing name and is now called the **Domestic Abuse Notification Scheme (D.A.N.S)**

The D.A.N.S acts as a school notification service where incidents of domestic abuse have been reported in the previous 24 hours to Bedfordshire Police from households where children reside and are on the school roll. The D.A.N.S is coordinated by the Safeguarding Lead at our school and is facilitated by the Early Help HUB within the MASH team at Bedford Borough Children's Services. The Scheme has been implemented within the majority of schools in Bedford Borough.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) reported that 4.3% of men and 7.5% of women stated that they have experienced domestic abuse in 2016/17. This is equivalent to an estimated 713,000 male victims and 1.2 million female victims.

- For every three victims of domestic abuse, two will be female, one will be male.
- For every four victims of stalking, three will be female and one will be male.
- On average victims experience 50 incidents of abuse before getting effective help
- Every minute in the UK police receive a call for assistance concerning domestic abuse
- 30% of domestic abuse starts during pregnancy
- 70% of high risk victims have children

The aims of the scheme are to:

- Raise awareness of the circumstances under which a child may be attending school and how subsequently they may present in terms of their behavioural and emotional responses throughout the school day.
- Provide a source of support through the educational setting for families impacted by domestic abuse.
- Make referrals where required for safeguarding purposes to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, or where parental consent is given, and where it is appropriate to do so, complete an Early Help Assessment for additional support.

As a school we feel it vital that we work alongside Bedfordshire Police and Bedford Borough Council to achieve these aims.

If you would like more information about the Scheme or support that can be offered around Domestic Abuse please speak with Liz Polson or Samantha Baxter.

Many Thanks

Principal