



Building
together
for our future.

Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School

89 Frys Road, Ballymena Co. Antrim BT43 7EN

1989- 2019: 30 Years of Integration

028 25647899



Principal: J McAuley

www.braidside.co.uk

02/02/2023

Dear Parents,

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

I am writing to update you about our school's participation in Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass is an early intervention partnership between Police and Schools. It is aimed at supporting children who are victims of domestic violence.

Operation Encompass is already established across all of England and Wales and is now coming to Northern Ireland. It is a very simple idea, but one that will help us to support and protect vulnerable children. When the Police attend an incident of domestic violence where one of our pupils is present, they will inform the school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection at the start of the next school day. This information is shared in strict confidence and school staff are only told on a need-to-know basis.

Following any notification from the PSNI, our staff will provide immediate support to any child who has been the victim of domestic abuse. We know that when children do witness domestic abuse at home, this is a highly traumatic experience for them. By taking part in Operation Encompass, we can provide tailored and compassionate support to our pupils, in line with our school ethos. This builds on our existing commitment to child safeguarding.

Should you wish to find out more information, please contact the school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection Ms Julie McAuley or alternatively you can read more about Operation Encompass at www.operationencompass.org.

POST PRIMARY ADMISSIONS for SEPTEMBER 2023

EA Connect is now open for P7 parents to complete their child's application for admission to post-primary schools. Parents should ensure they include a number of schools in their selection (including at least 1 non-grammar option) and ensure they refer to the school's criteria in their application. Any supporting documentation should also be uploaded to the portal.

Applications will close at 4pm on 23rd February '23. Further information and a post-primary guide are available on the school website. Individual interviews with Ms McAuley are currently taking place and we encourage parents to contact the school if you require any further assistance.

AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION SURVEY: JANUARY 23

Thank you to all those parents who participated in the After School Childcare Provision Survey. We had 75 responses which is approx. 25% of the primary school. The results of the survey will be reviewed and will assist the Board of Governors with decisions for the future.

Of those 75 responses:

96% would be interested in after school provision.

64% would require provision for only 1 child.

38.6% noted 5pm as the time they would require childcare until and another 29.3% noting a preference for 6pm.

There was also a selection of valuable comments, particularly in relation to flexibility in booking, working parents' needs and being able to access different activities. We have 17 additional comments to review.

Further updates will follow in due course.

Some Dates for your Diary

AQE/ GL Assessment Outcomes for P7 pupils: 4th February

Children's Mental Health Week : Mon 6th- Fri 10th February

Safer Internet Day: Tues 7th Feb

Half-term holidays: Monday 13th – Friday 17th February 2023 (inclusive)

Parent Coffee Morning with Parentline NI: Monday 27th February

Individual/ family Photographs: 6th and 7th March

We look forward to meeting next week for parent interviews. *School will finish at 1pm (P1-P3/4O) and 1:15pm (P4C-7) on Mon 6th – Thurs 9th to accommodate interviews.* Transport will run as usual for those who travel on the EA yellow bus and Etherson's bus.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Yours faithfully,

J McAuley

Principal