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Dear Parents/Carers,

As of September 2015 Hazeldene Lower School will be participating in the RELAY Scheme in partnership with Bedford Borough Council and Bedfordshire Police.



The RELAY Scheme 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.



If children on roll at Hazeldene live at the address of an incident, notification will allow us to employ appropriate support mechanisms for the child/children.



The RELAY Scheme is coordinated by the Safeguarding Lead at our school and is facilitated by the Early Help Service at Bedford Borough Children's Services. The Scheme will be implemented within the majority of schools in Bedford Borough.



Nationally domestic abuse represents approximately 25% of all violent crime. National research shows:

- One in three women experience abuse in their relationship;
- On average there will have been 35 assaults before the victim contacts the police;
- Every minute in the UK police receive a call for assistance concerning domestic abuse;
- Domestic abuse claims the lives of two women every week;
- 30% of domestic violence starts during pregnancy;
- 70% of high risk victims have children.



As a school we feel it vital that we work alongside our partner organisations to support both the victims of domestic abuse in our community and their children.



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



Many Thanks

*Helen Ward*



Head Teacher  
Hazeldene Lower School

