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"Achieve, Believe, Care"

Dear Parents,

RE: Claire's Law - The right to know if your partner has an abusive past

I hope you are all well. I wanted to talk to you about something very important that is called Claire's Law. It is a law that was made to help protect adults and children from harm from domestic abuse.

Clare's Law, also known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) is a police policy giving people the right to know if their current or ex-partner has any previous history of violence or abuse. Under Clare's Law, you have the right to:

- Make an application to the police requesting information about your current or ex-partner, because you are worried they may have been abusive in the past and believe they may pose a risk to you in future.
- Request information from the police about the current or ex-partner of a close friend, neighbour or family member, because you are concerned that they might be at risk of domestic abuse in future.

This is called the 'right to ask.' You have a right to ask the police no matter if your enquiry relates to a heterosexual or same-sex relationship, as long as you are aged 16 or older. You also have the right to ask about a partner regardless of your (or your neighbour, friend or family member's) gender identity, ethnicity, race, religion or other characteristics.

You also have the 'right to know'. This means that if police checks show that your current or ex-partner has a record of violent or abusive behaviour, and they believe you may be at risk, they may decide to proactively share that information with you. If you're worried that your current or former partner has been abusive or violent in the past, Clare's Law was created to formally give you the right to find out.

Clare's Law disclosures have to be considered 'lawful', 'proportionate' and 'necessary' so this means that police must first decide whether it is appropriate to disclose your partner's confidential records, as part of your DVDS application. If there is enough to suggest that you may be at risk, then the police will make a collective decision on what information to disclose to you.

If you are applying on your own behalf, then the police will disclose any information directly to you – usually in person. If you're applying on behalf of someone else, any disclosure is likely to depend on your relationship to that person and your ability to keep them safe.

Should your partner not be known to the police, or if police checks suggest that there isn't a threat to your safety, then the police will tell you so. In this case, they are not required to share any disclosure with you or anyone else.

Clare's Law exists to help prevent all types of domestic abuse, not only physical. Domestic abuse can take various forms. It can also include harassment, verbal abuse, stalking, psychological threats or manipulation, sexual assault and violent behaviour. Anyone can experience domestic abuse regardless of age, race, ethnic or religious backgrounds, sexuality, class or disability.

There are also many different signs or flags that a partner might have a history of abuse, or may become abusive in future. These might include any of the following:

- causing you physical, sexual or psychological harm
- stopping you from seeing friends, family or colleagues
- controlling your phone, money or access to the internet
- making physical, verbal or implied threats against you
- causing damage to your property or belongings
- stalking or harassing you making unwanted or -malicious calls sending nasty or abusive messages

If any of these apply to you, or if a partner makes you feel unsafe for any other reason, you have the right to ask about them under Clare's Law.

If you need to make a request click on the link below:

[Request information under Clare's Law: Make a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme \(DVDS\) application | Metropolitan Police](#)

We know that this might sound a bit scary, but it is important to know that you can ask for help if you need it. If you have a concern or if you are suffering domestic abuse, our school has an open-door policy and we are always here to help you.

Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Gromski

Executive Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead.