

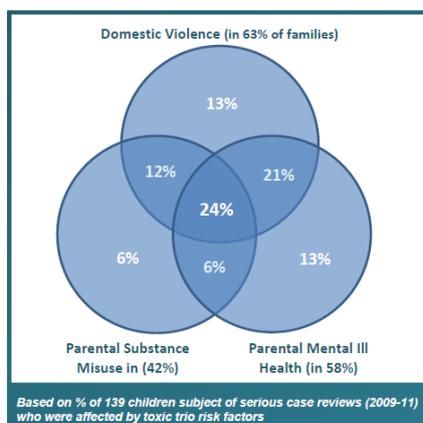
## Safeguarding Update:

There has been much recent research into the detrimental impact on young people when either or both of their parents/carers is affected by **any one** of the three issues referred to by professionals as the '**Toxic Trio**', namely:

- having a parent who is a victim of **domestic abuse**
- parental **substance misuse**
- parental **mental ill-health**



Where **any two or all three** of these factors are present, research demonstrates that young people are at a **greatly heightened risk** of coming to **significant harm**.



A report into **139 Serious Case Reviews** (conducted when a child dies or suffers significant harm) carried out between 2009 and 2011 shows that in **95%** of all cases, **at least one** of the 'Toxic Trio' was a contributory factor.

In **63%** of all cases, **two** of the Toxic Trio were contributory factors.

**All three** issues were present in **24%** of cases.

Over the coming weeks, the Safeguarding Team will be providing a series of updates to staff, parents and students regarding how to access support should they feel that they or someone they know is being exposed to any of the Toxic Trio.

In the first instance, with regard to domestic abuse and in conjunction with Merseyside Police, St Julie's Catholic High School is involved in an initiative called **Operation Encompass**. The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguard and support children and young people who have been involved in, heard or witnessed a domestic abuse incident.



Following such an incident, children will often arrive at school distressed, upset, worried and unprepared and Merseyside Police have now established a system whereby they will contact schools the day following any such incident that they attended and at which the child was present.

Operation Encompass aims to ensure that appropriate school staff (called **Key Adults**) are made aware early enough to support children and young people in a way that means they feel safe and included. A lot of the time this support is silent; keeping a careful eye on him or her and make sure the child has a calm school day. The confidential information is ordinarily not shared with all staff, though all schools have a duty to share any information with other organisations if they feel a child is at risk of being hurt. This is described in our child protection policy.

The sharing of information from the Police allows the school to be ready to help your child straight away, and it means that parents are aware that the Key Adult knows that something has happened. Parents can come and talk to our Key Adult. The Key Adult can point you towards other people that can help. Our aim is to support children and their families

**At St Julie's Catholic High Schools our Key Adults are:**

**Mr Alderman (Headteacher)**

**Mrs McCourt (Deputy Headteacher)**

**Mr Willis (Designated Safeguarding Lead and Acting Deputy Headteacher)**

**Mrs Jones (Acting Head of Upper School)**

**Miss Gawley (Head of Middle School)**

**Mrs Rooney (Head of Lower School)**

This is a valuable initiative that means we can continue to support and help children and families within our school community when they need it the most.

You can find out more by visiting [www.operationencompass.org](http://www.operationencompass.org) or by contacting our Key Adults via [safeguarding@stjulies.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stjulies.org.uk)

You can also find out more about how victims of domestic abuse can access support by connecting with the following agencies:

<https://liverpooledomesticabuseservice.org.uk/>

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/>

<http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk/>

<http://respectphoneline.org.uk/>

<http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk/>