

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

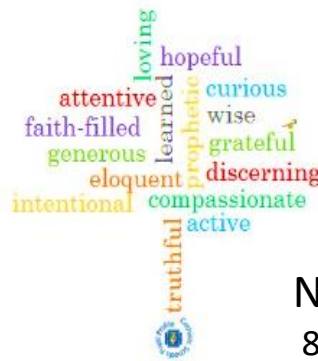
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Newsletter 18
8th May 2020

At St Bernadette's we are fully committed to safeguarding our children. We expect all staff, parents and visitors to share this commitment.

Dear Parents,

Can we begin by saying a huge and heartfelt thank you for the wonderful surprise we woke up to on Tuesday morning this week! A significant number of parents and children of St Bernadette's came together (virtually) last weekend and created a video message for staff telling us how much you were missing school and all those who work here and it's safe to say there was not a dry eye among us. It was wonderful to see so many of the children's faces and it really lifted our spirits during this time. Thank you so much to all those involved.

We hope that you continue to remain safe and well during this extended time away from school. It has been a beautiful week in terms of weather, so we hope that you have been able to enjoy time outside with your children. We do not benefit from good weather as much as we would like in this country so please make the very most of it within the confines of the government guidelines.

There are many stories in the media at the moment regarding an imminent return to school and we have had a number of enquiries about this to school. At present, we **do not** have a definite date for the re-opening of school. Until the government and Department for Education make an announcement regarding this, we will be remaining open for the children of our key workers and some of our most vulnerable children only. (Please note that during half term, school will be closed to all pupils). Thankfully, it does indeed seem that some form of normality is likely over the next few weeks, when hopefully we will all be able to see each other and family and friends will be reunited once more. Until then, enjoy the remaining time you have together with your children and immediate families as before long, we will be back to our busy lives and jobs and hopefully will be able to look back to this time with positive and precious memories, despite some of the challenges we may have endured. Please continue to keep safe and take care.

Pastoral Support

You may find yourself in need of some support during this difficult time. The pastoral team have added a section to the school website:

<https://www.stberns.co.uk/pastoral-support> which you may find useful in signposting you to support that is available.

School Closure

Please note that school will be closed **to all children** for the half term break from Monday 25th May to Friday 31st May. Based on current government advice, school will reopen for children of key workers on Monday 1st June. (This may change subject to government announcements due to be made over the weekend but we will keep you informed of any new developments).

Home Learning

Once again, a big thank you to those children (and parents as we know you are doing a fantastic job in our absence) who have been logging onto the online learning lessons this week and completing the work set for you. Your teachers have been spending hours creating PowerPoints and activities for you to complete, so it is great to see you having a really good go at them and it is especially nice to get messages from you in the speech bubbles. Keep them coming! Your teachers would like to mention the following children in particular this week:

Nursery

This week's stars for online learning for Nursery have been Imaan, Ruth, Louis and Aayana. They have all been posting their hard work to tapestry from name writing, letter formation, number work and fantastic Elmer creations. They have brought smiles to all their teachers' faces.

Reception

Miss Finnegan would like to mention Charlotte for learning so much about her family during WW2 in our VE Day challenges. Miss Fullerton is really pleased with Isla-Mae who researched lots of information about the Second World War as part of our VE day activities. In RSD, Miss Deards would like to mention Kieran for going above and beyond with his home learning and Ellis for trying so hard with his phonics at home.

Year 1

John is making Miss Fiddler so happy with all the effort he is putting into his home learning. He is working really hard and all of his work is completed beautifully. Well done John, keep it up. Mrs Jones would like to mention Jaxon for his hard work and improved handwriting. Mrs McGrath is really happy with Amaya for her excellent problem solving in Maths.

Year 2

Rhivae and Kaeli are mentioned for their amazing chicken reports, which have brought a big smile to Mr Wayne's face. He is also really pleased with Nathan, Niamh, Qasim, Adrija and Kirsty for completing their Maths work everyday. Mrs Lennon is delighted with Joshua, Georgio and Alysia for their super effort with Maths. She is also really pleased with Reo as he has shown great determination to complete his English work. Miss O'Toole is really pleased with Romayah and Jones for the excellent effort they have been putting into their English work and Rhivae for completing her Maths work every day. Mrs Harston is over the moon with Eleanor and Adrija for always trying so hard with their English work and James, Yusha and Amiah for really impressing her with the content and presentation of their Maths work.

Year 3

Miss Corkery would like Tyreiss in Year 3 to be mentioned for his amazing setting description. She is also really pleased with William as he completes the work set every day and is making great progress. Mrs Kelly is over the moon with Thea and Joyce for their amazing character and setting descriptions this week. Miss Gibbs is really pleased with Sophia for her effort at completing her English work and also with Arees, Layton and Shay for their impressive poetry work. Mrs Hill would like to thank Oliver for completing all of his online learning/ activities with care.

Home Learning

Year 4

Miss Canning is delighted with Alfie for writing an amazing rainforest setting description (a copy of this fantastic work is attached for you to enjoy). Miss Hulse would like to commend Ashin for his positive attitude and brilliant Maths work. Miss Manders is really pleased with Logan-Jay for excellent story writing. Mrs Brownhill would like to mention Hermela for working so hard to complete the tasks set.

Year 5

Miss Grant & Miss Connaire are so happy with Kabisajini, for the excellent standard of work she has produced, Aprylle, for her amazing effort, Josh S. for work of an excellent standard and his enthusiasm and Jacob for his all-round super effort with his online learning. Miss Speake and Miss Ryan would like to mention Lawrence for trying his best to complete all of his learning in English and Jor'El and Scarlett for their superb effort in Maths. Those who impressed Mr Baker last week have still done so again this week. He would also like to add Chloe W, and Macey, who have made a great effort everyday in English and Daniel who has worked really hard in both English and Maths. Elisha Martin, Benhur Debas and Jerin Jacob have handed in accurate Maths work on time and everyday, well done. Mrs Beaman is really pleased with Freddie and Mattia for exceptional work in English and Khloie and Chelsea for amazing Maths work.

Year 6

Miss Lakin is delighted with Isla, who has worked incredibly hard from the start with her online learning. Mrs Docker would like to mention Keith for working independently and concentrating fully on his Math White Rose task while in school. He always gives his best in the sessions and is also willing to help others if they need support. Mr Markham-Jones is really pleased with Raaina for her Maths work as it is always completed. Mr Carroll and Miss Connaire would like to say a big thank you to Jay, Bexanne and Aneeq for always completing their Maths and English work every day and to a really high standard.

Keep up the hard work everyone! Thank you and well done 😊

We are here to help

Most of you have really got to grips with this new way of learning online over the past couple of weeks and a huge thank you to our parents for all the support you are giving the children at home with this. We know it is not easy! A reminder that parents can email staff with queries regarding their child's work, on their year band email address. Staff will endeavour to get back to you and help you with any issues you or the children maybe having with their work.

If your child attends the nursery you should email nursery@stberns.bham.sch.uk

If you have a child in the Reception class then please email reception@stberns.bham.sch.uk Teaching staff who cover classes in year 1 can be contacted at year1@stberns.bham.sch.uk and all other year bands, using the same email address but preceded with the applicable year band.

A message to all of our Year 6s

Next week was going to be a very special and challenging week for you. Next week was going to be a week of hard work, effort and achievement. It would have been filled with nerves, excitement, fun and laughter. Next week was going to be your SATs week.

However, your SATs have been cancelled because you now have a much bigger and more important job to do. You are helping our country get through one of the biggest challenges it has ever faced. And we are proud of you.

We are proud of how hard you worked in the run up to SATs, with homework, revision, practice tests. We are proud of how you rose to the challenge, used your growth mind-set skills and pushed yourself to achieve all you possibly could. Your hard work has not been in vain – it has set you up ready for Secondary School and you will feel confident, prepared and ready for the academic challenges ahead of you.

You do not need a SATs test to prove how fantastic you are because SATs tests don't assess so many things: sports, art, music, the kindness of your heart, the brightness of your smile, how infectious your laughter is, what great friends you are and all the other qualities that make you who you are.

We are proud of you. We miss you. We hope to see you soon.

From all of the staff at St Bernadette's.



Safer Schools App.

We are delighted to launch the new Safer Schools App to enable you to keep abreast of ever changing online technology, apps and trends. The App is designed to support and protect children by providing simple and easy to understand information about relevant and contemporary information. Parents and carers will have access to information about popular social media platforms and also be given an insight on critical issues such as online bullying and gaming etc. The App provides easy-to-follow advice on how to make homes and devices safer for children to use. The App responds to current trends and issues emerging and provides prompts, alerts and warnings to parents. Please remember to enable push notifications for this to be most effective. To download the App please see the information flyer attached.

We are currently rolling this App out to parents at this stage, with a view to extending it to pupils at a later date. In order for school to get a picture of digital use at home it would be very helpful if, when you have downloaded the App, you visit the 'Survey Section' and complete the 'Digital Footprint Survey'.

**STAY HOME
PROTECT THE NHS
SAVE LIVES**

Message to all children

To all of our pupils of St Bernadette's,

As we come to the end of our seventh week of school closures and lock down, we hope that you are all keeping safe and healthy. It seems like a very long time since we saw you all and this will be the longest time you have ever been away from school. That's why the special video many of you got involved in producing last weekend meant so very much to all the staff here at St Bernadette's. Your pictures, words and most of all smiling faces meant the world to us and brought tears to many eyes of the adults who teach and look after you. It was extremely thoughtful of you and your parents to put so much time and effort into creating your signs, taking photos, adding music and putting the message together and it meant so very much to us all. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We hope to see those happy faces in real life very soon!

Today has been a very important day as we commemorate the **75th Anniversary of VE Day**. We hope that you and your families have been able to celebrate this momentous occasion in some way and have learnt some information about what VE day is all about. Why not click on the following link and watch this short video about it:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-ve-day/z7xtmfr>

We know that it probably feels like you have been in lock down for a very long time now, but try to have patience and keep following government safety guidelines for a little while more. It hopefully won't be very much longer until you will be allowed out a little more and in time, back to school and to some of the other activities you must be missing so much. We are not sure when this will be. However, one thing is certain and that is that this lock down will not last forever and before we know it, we will be back to our classrooms and our playgrounds and our busy lives. Therefore, during the time you have left at home, try to make the most of it : read that extra book; have a go at that recipe; paint that picture; watch that film; learn that dance; do something you've been wanting to do but keep putting off and most importantly enjoy spending that precious time with your parents and siblings. Takes lots of pictures and make lots of memories of this unexpected extra time you have had together.

Sending lots of love and best wishes from all the staff at St Bernadette's.

Mental Health Support

A range of new, easily accessible mental health support is now available for patients in Birmingham and Solihull, based around four groups:

- 0-18 year olds in Birmingham
- 0-19 year olds in Solihull
- Over 18s in Birmingham and Solihull
- Key workers.

These services are provided by a range of local organisations, and offer emotional help, guidance and reassurance to people in Birmingham and Solihull who may be finding the current Coronavirus situation overwhelming.

The flyer attached to this newsletter includes information about the mental health services available.

Alfie in Year 4 has produced this amazing setting description.

Climbing past mysterious branches, our adventurer came upon an unknown world. A world where snakes slithered and cockatoos glided. A world where giant water lilies perfumed the air and trees dipped into the water on either side, like curtains at the theatre. A world bright and warm. A world as colourful as the brightest rainbow. Carefully, Mia crept through a corridor of green as brilliantly coloured birds flashed between the laden branches.

The ground was mossy, speckled with patches of grass and creeper. Around her birds sang, a cacophony of raucous sounds. The wind whistled through giant trees as a flying squirrel soared through the air and scuttled up a branch. A scarlet orchid, hanging from a branch glowed like a jewel in a shaft of sun drawing her closer.

A few moments later, the trees opened up in front of her and she saw an expanse of water, shimmering a silvery mirrored green. The river wound for miles around bends and swoops, disappearing into the horizon near the foot of a mountain. Amazed, Mia approached the perfect paradise and gazed into the sapphire river. A shoal of angelfish darted beneath the smooth surface, dazzling like diamonds in the clear water. Out of the water leapt a pinkish-grey body, curving against the sun. Confused, the girl spun around in surprise. What was that splash?

From the river erupted the most magnificent creature. Mia gasped in amazement at the sight. What was that? Splash! She saw it again and this time for sure. Emerging from the depths of the water came a majestic beast - a pink river dolphin! An eye widening grin spread across the little girl's face in amazement at such a beautiful sight. As quick as a flash, the dolphin swam away leaving Mia alone.

The Year of the Word: Reflection 10

In his VE Day Speech Winston Churchill said:
"We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing, but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead."



THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

On our journey with God, our life adventure, God calls each one of us by name to our vocation. Our vocation is never for ourselves, and no matter what our family and friends' reaction may be, the best thing to do is keep your gaze on Jesus, confide in Him and draw support from those that He brings into our lives or events that He puts us in. It will not be an easy journey - there will be times of hardship and sacrifice but ultimately it will be worth it because Jesus died to set us free and bring us redemption, so that we are able to live in OUR Father's House for all eternity.

Through Jesus' death, we have been given a choice as to what we make of our lives, But God calls us to himself through our vocation, so that we can make our world a better place and we can give glory to God who made us in His own image and gave us life. It is us ourselves, with our unique strengths and weaknesses, gifts and talents that God needs to keep mankind free from any bonds of captivity. It is who we are, in whatever shape or form that God is able to work through if we let Him.

With Jesus' death, a new world, more beautiful than the last, was born. Mankind was freed from captivity in any form. We were given liberty and freedom. Yet through History, just as with Adam and Eve with Satan in the Garden of Eden, there have been times and individuals, who have tried to take away that liberty, freedom and our civil rights in a bid to have ultimate power.

The end to one such challenge is marked this weekend with the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day in 1945. This marked the formal acceptance of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender by Britain and its Allies following almost six years of WW2. VE Day was a celebration but also a moment of great sadness and reflection, as millions of people had lost their lives or loved ones in the conflict. The occupation of countries like France would be a distant memory, as would the bloody brutality of battles such as the Normandy Landings. But we owe the greatest debt of thanks to the brave men (and on some occasions, women) who defended our liberty. Extraordinary events created extraordinary people.

Liberty, freedom and civil rights were three things that the people of Nazi Germany did not have. Though the Nazis covered up their tyranny through stylish propaganda and the guise of economic stability after a period of turbulence, we cannot pretend that Hitler and his minions were anything but fascist and deeply authoritarian in their actions and ideology. Any criticism was swiftly crushed, and that was sadly not the worst of it. Anyone who did not conform would not be allowed into society. Even those who were seen as the perfect Aryans did not enjoy political freedom, a right to one's own body (abortion was either forced or completely prohibited) or any of the things we enjoy today. Sadly, there was worse. Whether Jewish, Gypsy, homosexual, of another race, the list of 'sins' on the Nazi list was endless. Though the horrors of the camps were not truly known until after the war- even amongst Germans- it would be one where the blood of the victims stained history. The Holocaust victims were more than just statistics; they were the victim of cold blooded mental, physical and emotional torment.

In that way, soldiers weren't the only heroes of VE Day. Everyone who fought against the Nazis by protecting Jews and other victims, whether by passive resistance or open defiance, was a contributor to VE Day. Israel has thousands people registered as 'Righteous Among the Nations,' those who risked their lives to prevent others from losing theirs. We cannot forget them.

Of course, however, we mainly associate the military with VE Day, and it is primarily a day for remembering those who defended their nations. Throughout the British Commonwealth- everywhere from the middle of London to those in Calcutta, millions of men and boys volunteered to stand against evil. Some lied about their ages; others hid medical conditions in desperation to serve. When they could not stand on the front line, they were the doctors, cooks and ambulance drivers who kept the whole operation running. Boys as young as sixteen were willing to be shot out of the sky for God, King and Country, willing to be laid to rest without so much as having kissed a girl. They may not have known about the evils of the Holocaust, but they knew that they were fighting against something on the wrong side. Across the world, families received telegrams, informing them that their son had been killed in action. Through the anguish and the grief, only part of their heart would be filled by the knowledge that they were heroes.

Let us not forget the women either: Without the Rosie Riveters who assembled the bullets, the regular women who raised war bonds or the nurses who tended the wounds of the injured, many more lives- civilian or otherwise- would have been lost.

Out of VE Day came an extraordinary new world. This post-war age is not perfect- look at leaders like Franco and Ceaușescu, or massacres such as that of Bosnian Muslims- but it would have not come about without the sacrifice and bravery of millions of quite ordinary people. In every European country, bar the Vatican (which doesn't have voting as we know it); women have equal access to the ballot as men. The discrimination of certain groups may occur; but it is rare and is thankfully not tolerated by the masses. Personal autonomy, political freedom and just basic human rights are now afforded to the vast majority of citizens.

Churchill is often quoted because of the depth and memory attached to his speeches. In one such memorable speech, the British Bulldog said: 'Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves, that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, This was their finest hour.'

And it was - It truly was, until recent events, when once again those following their vocation have stepped forward to defeat an enemy and we have all been asked to play our part and trust that all will be well. So, marking the 75th Anniversary will be all the more poignant this year; as despite the best laid plans celebrations have had to be changed in the current climate. Then, as now, it is about community spirit - Keep calm and Carry on! The theme of Holocaust Day this year was Stand Together and while we can't do that physically, we can in spirit. We can stand together in remembrance and thanksgiving, against hatred and prejudice and for building stronger communities. We can remember the recent dead and give thanks for the new wave of heroes that have stepped forward, we can reflect that together we really are stronger and it is an opportunity for rebirth once again, so that we have the chance to change and make sure that God's will is done on Earth as it is in Heaven for the repose of our souls and the souls of all those who have gone before or are yet to come.

God bless us all!



Readings for Reflection from the Gospels

Mt 11: 5

Mt 12: 18

Jn 10:1-10 - Jesus offers the promise of fullness of life in him.

Jn 14:1-12 - Heaven is our true home; All our life is preparation for that place of security and peace where God waits for us.



Friday 8th May 2020: United together to remember the past, we pay tribute to the Second World War generation and honour our heroes both then and now.

Join the Tommy in the Window Campaign of the Royal British Legion to pay tribute to all those who fought and died in WW2 and to support current veterans and Service

Soldier's Psalm 91 Prayer

O Lord Most High, help me to dwell in your secret place and abide under Your shadow.
 Help me to believe and say out loud for everyone to hear
 That You are my refuge and my fortress;
 that You are my God; and that in You I put my trust.
 O Lord God Almighty,
 Please deliver me from hidden traps and diseases.
 Father God, cover me with Your camouflage;
 Hide me under Your wings;
 Let Your truth be my shield and buckler
 Against the fiery darts—the lies—of the enemy.
 Lord Jesus, help me not to be afraid of terrorists' attacks in the night;
 Or weapons that fly by day; or sicknesses that walk in darkness;
 Or destruction that wastes at noonday.
 O Holy God, though a thousand fall at my side,
 And ten thousand fall at my right hand;
 Please let it not come close to my companions and me.
 O Lord Most High, let me live to see the reward of the wicked,
 Because You are my refuge and my home.
 Let no evil conquer me.
 Let no plague come into my house or near my family.
 O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer,
 Please set angels over me to keep me in all Your ways,
 To bear me up in their hands and to keep my feet from stumbling.
 Father God, help me to tread upon the lion and adder
 And trample the young lion and the dragon under my feet.
 Lord Jesus, I love you with all my heart and I know Your name.
 Deliver me and lift me on high to soar with the eagles.
 I call upon you to be with me in times of trouble and
 To deliver and honor me because I know Your name.
 Please show me Your salvation and satisfy me with a long life.
 I ask this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.
 Amen

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
 to be consoled as to console;
 to be understood as to understand;
 to be loved as to love.

Lord, I ask for courage.
 Courage to face and
 Conquer my own fears...
 Courage to take me where
 Others will not go.

I ask for strength...
 Strength of body to protect others...
 Strength of spirit to lead others.
 I ask for dedication...
 Dedication to my job, to do it well...
 Dedication to my country,
 To keep it safe.

Give me, Lord, concern...
 For those who trust me
 And compassion for those
 Who need me, and please Lord...
 Through it all be at my side.

Cast your cares
 on the Lord and
 He will sustain you.

Psalm 55:22



Dear Parents, Carers & Guardians,

Whether you're a mum, dad, carer, auntie, uncle, granny or grandpa, it's important for you to understand what children are doing online, so you can help make them safer.

We are delighted to invite you to download our new 'Safer Schools' App' provided by our school insurance provider Zurich Municipal.



★ *Make sure to enable push notifications to keep up-to-date with our tips, advice and guidance on how to make your children safer.*★

About the App

The App is designed to support and protect children by educating and empowering them both at school and at home. Through their access, your children get access to information that is relevant to them and you will receive tips and advice on how to keep them safer online.

Excited? Ready to make your children safer? Download the 'Safer Schools' app now!



The Safer Schools App has been developed by Ineqe Safeguarding Group in partnership with Zurich Municipal.

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www.oursaferschools.co.uk



Pause.

ForwardThinking
Birmingham



The
Children's
Society

**Need someone to talk to?
Struggling to cope with feelings?
We're here for you.**

We are operating a telephone-based service while Pause in Digbeth is closed. Drop us an email on askbeam@childrenssociety.org.uk in the first instance.

Or call 0207 841 4470 and we will arrange for one of our friendly staff to call you back but email is much quicker.

Who can use us?

You can use us if you have a Birmingham GP and are:

- Under 25 years old (If you are under 14 you will need to have a parent / caregiver with you when we call to give consent).
- Or if you are a parent / caregiver looking for support for their child who is under 25 years old.

How can we help?

We can offer:

- Self-help strategies, skills for managing difficult situations and feelings.
- A non-judgemental listening ear.
- Details for other organisations that might also be able to help you.
- Each call lasts around 20-30 minutes which focuses on ways forward.

Our Opening Hours:

Email or Call Us - 10am - 6pm, 7 days a week



THIRD PARTY

Keeping People Safe From Domestic Violence

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme



Preventing crime, protecting the public and helping those in need
www.west-midlands.police.uk

Step One: Initial contact with the police

When you contact the police, a police officer or a member of police staff will take details from you of what prompted your enquiry and the nature of your relationship with the potential victim and the person.

You will need to give your name, address and date of birth. At a later stage, you will need to provide proof of your identity.

We will also ask you when and where it is safe to make contact with you again.

We will run some initial checks based on the information you have provided and conduct an initial risk assessment. The purpose of these initial checks is for the police to establish if there are any immediate concerns. They will not be undertaken while you are present.

If speaking to the police you allege that a crime has taken place - for example, if you say that you witnessed someone hit someone else - then the police may investigate this as a crime and may arrest the individual.

No disclosure of information will take place at this stage unless it is necessary for the immediate protection of the potential victim. If the police believe that someone is at risk and in need of protection from harm, they will take action without delay.

Step Two: Face to face meeting to complete the application

Depending on the outcome of the initial meeting, you may then be required to participate in a face to face meeting. This is to establish further details about your application in order to assess any risk.

This also gives you a chance to provide proof of your identity. This should comprise of a photo ID and another form of ID (if photo ID is not available, the police will consider other forms of ID).

The forms of ID we accept are:

- your passport
- your driving licence
- a household utility bill
- your bank statement
- your benefit book
- your birth certificate

We will use this meeting to gather more information from you about the nature of the relationship between the person you are concerned about and the individual. We may also ask for further information from you on why you have made an enquiry under the DVDS.

We may run more detailed checks and speak to other agencies including the Prison Service, the Probation Service and Social Services based on the information you give.

They will work as quickly as possible to complete the checks but, depending on the circumstances, some checks may take longer for the results to be received.

We aim to complete the whole process, including these and the disclosure of information if decided necessary, within 35 days.

The police will act immediately if at any point they consider the potential victim to be at risk and in need of protection from harm.

Step Three: Multi-agency meeting to consider disclosure

We will meet with other safeguarding agencies such as those mentioned in step two to discuss:

- the information that you have given
- any additional information police we have gathered from checks we have run
- any relevant information from the agencies they have talked to

The meeting will then decide whether any disclosure is lawful, necessary and proportionate to protect the person you are concerned about from the person they are in a relationship with. If they decide to disclose information, they will also decide who should receive the information disclosure and set up a safety plan tailored to the potential victim's needs to provide them with help and support.

Your Right to Know

Under the DVDS, you may receive a disclosure even if you have not asked for one. That is because if we receive information about a person you know which we think puts that person at risk of harm of domestic violence by the person they're in a relationship with, we may consider disclosing that information if you are the best placed person to protect the potential victim.

The decision to disclose information when you have not asked for a disclosure will be made by a multi-agency meeting, and the disclosure will only be made if it is lawful and proportionate, and there is a pressing need to make the disclosure to prevent further crime.

Important note

You should be aware that police checks or any disclosures made are not a guarantee of safety. We will, however, give you advice on how to protect the potential victim and how to recognise the warning signs of domestic abuse. We will also make sure you are aware of what local and national support is available.

Step Four: Potential Disclosure

What kind of information might be given

If the checks show that the individual you are enquiring about has a record for violent offences or there is other information that indicates there is a pressing need to make a disclosure to prevent further crime, the police may disclose this to the person who is most able to protect the victim.

A person's previous convictions are treated as confidential and information will only be disclosed if it is lawful and proportionate, and there is a pressing need to make the disclosure to prevent further crime.

If the checks do not show that there is a pressing need to make a disclosure to prevent further crime, we will tell you that. This may be because the person does not have a record of violent offences, or there is no information indicating that they pose a risk of harm to the potential victim. It could also be that some information is held on them, but is not sufficient to demonstrate a pressing need for disclosure.

It may be the case that the individual you are asking about is not known to the police for violent offences or there is insufficient information that indicates they pose a risk of harm to the potential victim, but they are showing worrying behaviour. In this case we can provide advice and support and work with you to protect the potential victim.

Step Five: After you are given information

If you do receive a disclosure, it should be treated as confidential. It is only being given to you so that you can take steps to protect the potential victim. You must not share this information with anyone else unless you have spoken to us, or person who gave you the information, and they have agreed with you that it will be shared.

Subject to the condition that the information is kept confidential, you can:

- use the information to keep the potential victim, yourself and any children involved in the situation safe
- ask what support is available
- ask for advice on how to keep yourself and others safe

We can decide not to give you information if we think that you will discuss it with others. However, the police will still take steps to protect the potential victim if they are at risk of harm.

It is an offence under Section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998 for a person to 'knowingly or recklessly obtain or disclose personal data without the consent of the data controller' which in this case is usually the police. We may take action against you if the information is disclosed without our consent, and this could in result in civil or criminal proceedings.

If no disclosure is made but you still have concerns and want further information about protecting someone from domestic violence, there is action you can take for the future. We can provide you with information and advice on how to protect someone from violent behaviour and how to recognise the warning signs of domestic abuse. There are also a number of support groups providing information about domestic violence, how to spot it and how to work with the authorities to intervene.

Support

If you would like additional help and support on domestic violence, please visit the domestic abuse page on the West Midlands Police website.

You can also ask the police for information on support groups that exist where you live.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT LAUNCHED FOR BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL

Are you feeling...

Overwhelmed

Stressed

Lonely

Isolated

Anxious

Afraid

