

POLICY FOR PROTECTING PUPILS FROM FGM

OVERVIEW

In October 2015 schools and teachers were given a new statutory duty in safeguarding and child protection concerning pupils who might be at risk of female genital mutilation or who have been victims of FGM. Female Genital Mutilation is illegal in the UK and in Law it is treated as a form of child abuse.

OBJECTIVE

1. To keep all pupils safe and to protect them from harm, in line with the school's existing policies and procedures for child protection and safeguarding.
2. To meet the Mandatory Reporting Duty Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) which places a statutory duty upon schools and teachers, to report to the police and other appropriate authorities where they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18 or that a pupil is at risk of being a victim of this illegal act.
3. To ensure that all staff are aware of this new duty and to ensure that they are familiar with the guidance and duties set out by the DfE in 'Keeping Children Safe In Education' 2016.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/447596/KCSIE_Part_1_July_2015.pdf

STRATEGIES

1. Teachers and other staff must make themselves aware of the guidance on indicators and warning signs which can be found on pages 16-17 of the Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines, and Chapter 9 of those Guidelines (pp42-44) focuses on the role of schools and colleges ('Keeping Children Safe In Education' 2015).
2. Teachers and other staff must report any such concern immediately to the school's designated safeguarding lead or a member of the senior leadership team. UK communities that are most at risk of FGM include Kenyan, Somali, Sudanese, Sierra Leonean, Egyptian, Nigerian and Eritrean. Non-African communities that practise FGM include Yemeni, Afghani, Kurdish, Indonesian and Pakistani.
3. The school will follow its procedures as set out in its statutory safeguarding and child protection policies and immediately liaise with the relevant agencies including social services and police.
4. In line with our strategies for teaching children about personal safety, we will ensure that they have appropriate knowledge about the dangers of child abuse and of the importance of reporting their concerns to their teachers and other appropriate staff.

OUTCOMES

Everyone in school will keep children safe from any form of child abuse including FGM. Any concerns will be reported to the child protection lead immediately and the school will take swift and appropriate action to protect them

Adopted by the Governing BodyDate.....July 2017.....Review Date.....July 2019.....