



## **SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION**

**Please note; this information supplements information in our Safeguarding Policy.**

### **FGM INFORMATION / BACKGROUND**

#### **FGM – What is it?**

- FGM comprises of all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genital organs or any other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM is most often carried out on young girls aged between infancy and 15 yrs of age. It is often referred to as 'cutting', 'female circumcision', 'initiation', 'Sunna' and 'infibulation'.

#### **FGM in the UK**

- It is estimated that 65,000 girls aged 13 and under are at risk of FGM in the UK. UK communities most at risk include Kenyan, Somalian, Sudanese, Sierra Leone, Egyptian, Nigerian and Eritrean. Non-African countries that practice FGM include Yemen, Afghanistan, Kurdistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey, South Thailand and Pakistan. Please note this list is not exhaustive.

#### **Spotting the signs of FGM**

Suspicious may arise in a number of ways that a child may be at risk of FGM. These include:

- Knowing that a mother or older sibling has undergone FGM
- A girl talks about plans to have a 'special procedure' or to attend a special occasion / celebration to 'become a woman'
- A girl's parents state that they or a relative will take the child out of the country for a prolonged period, or in school holidays.
- A girl may talk about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is present
- The girl is a member of the community that is less integrated into UK society and whose country of origin practices FGM

#### **Signs that a child may have already undergone FGM**

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom
- Spending long periods of time away from the classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems
- Prolonged or repeated absence from school or college
- A prolonged absence from school or college with personal or behaviour changes
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations
- Asking for advice but not being explicit about the procedures due to embarrassment or fear

## **FGM is child abuse**

**FGM has been against the law in the UK since 1985 – it is a serious crime that carries a penalty of up to 14 yrs in prison. It is an offence to make arrangements for FGM to be undertaken within the UK or to take, plan to take a child out of the UK for the purpose of FGM**

*All the above taken from NHS England – Female Genital Mutilation, Pocket guide for health care professionals*

If you become aware of FGM, or the possibility of FGM, in relation to a young person who is not at our school **TREAT IT AS A SAFEGUARDING ISSUE – REPORT IT TO THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD RACHEL CLARK OR ONE OF THE DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS IN HER ABSENCE.**

If you feel a young person is in imminent danger the police should be informed immediately.