

FGM is a Safeguarding Issue

This school is proactive in its response to Female Genital Mutilation



- Although parents or family members who organise FGM for young girls believe they are doing it in the young person's best interest, medical consensus is that FGM is a harmful practice.
- It is illegal in the UK and considered a form of child abuse. Under the FGM Act 2003, which replaced the Female Circumcision Act of 1985, it is illegal to perform FGM, arrange for FGM to be performed, or encourage FGM to be performed. All FGM is illegal on UK soil and it is illegal to take a UK citizen, permanent resident or habitual resident anywhere in the world to undergo FGM.
- Education professionals have a **duty of care** when it comes to FGM.
- Any disclosure or concern that FGM is about to take place or has already taken place (no matter how long ago) requires police and Social Services to be notified. If FGM has already taken place, it is mandatory that police are informed as per the Serious Crimes Act 2015. **It is not your job to investigate further.**
- If you have concerns about any of your students, pass them on to your Safeguarding or Child Protection Lead immediately.
- As with any other form of abuse, the young person's safety and wellbeing is the primary concern and overrides all other considerations.
- FGM is a complex issue and as much as possible requires a calm, sensitive and thoughtful response.

If you have any further questions or
concerns, contact FORWARD on
0208 960 4000

support@forwarduk.org.uk

In event of concerns, your Safeguarding Lead is:



FORWARD
Safeguarding rights & dignity

Mr V Wilkinson - Head Teacher
Lisa Edwards - Pupil & Family Support Worker

www.forwarduk.org.uk