

Where to go for further help and information:

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
(NSPCC)

FGM Helpline

0800 028 3550

fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

Home Office FGM Unit

FGMEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police

Child Abuse Investigation

Command/Project Azure

020 7161 2888

Foundation for Women's Health

Research & Development (FORWARD)

www.forwarduk.org.uk

020 8960 4000

**If someone is at imminent risk of FGM, you
should contact the police immediately.**

FGM

Wolsey House Primary School



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

FGM has been categorised into four types, ranging from a symbolic prick to the clitoris or prepuce, to the fairly extensive removal and narrowing of the vaginal opening. All these forms of FGM have been found in the UK.

FGM is sometimes known as 'female genital cutting' or female circumcision. Communities tend to use local names for referring to this practice, including 'sunna'.

FGM is considered a grave violation of the rights of girls and women.

If you suspect that FGM has or is going to take place as well as informing the DSL there is a statutory duty on teachers to report their concerns immediately to the police. Failure to report a case can result in disciplinary sanctions.

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.

If FGM is committed against a girl under the age of 16, each person who is responsible for the girl at the time the FGM occurred could be guilty of the offence of failing to protect her from the risk of FGM.

Anyone who commits FGM faces up to 14 years in prison, a fine, or both. **Anyone found guilty of failing to protect a girl from risk of FGM faces up to 7 years in prison, a fine, or both.**

Usually it is a girl's parents or her extended family who are responsible for arranging FGM. Some of the reasons given for the continued practice of FGM include; protecting family honour, preserving tradition, ensuring a woman's chastity, cleanliness and as a preparation for marriage.

Whilst FGM is often seen as an act of love, rather than cruelty, it causes significant harm and constitutes physical and emotional abuse. **FGM is considered to be child abuse in the UK** and is a violation of the child's right to life, their bodily integrity as well as of their right to health.

What are the signs that a girl may be at risk of FGM or has undergone FGM?

Suspicious may arise in a number of ways that a child is being prepared for FGM to take place abroad. These include knowing both that the family belongs to a community in which FGM is practised and is making preparations for the child to take a holiday, arranging vaccinations or planning absence from school. *The child may also talk about a special procedure/ceremony that is going to take place.*

Indicators that FGM may already have occurred include prolonged absence from school or other activities with noticeable behaviour change on return, possibly with bladder or menstrual problems. Some teachers have described how children find it difficult to sit still and look uncomfortable, or may complain about pain between their legs, or talk of something somebody did to them that they are not allowed to talk about.

Our DSL's are: Steve Powell, Helen King, Julie Cooper-Marsh, Ginny Southwell, Emily Satchwell, Jacqui Hayes and Yasin Ismail

You must inform both the DSL **and the police** of your suspicions.