

**Female Genital Mutilation** **Statement**

**Agreed by Staff and Governors: September 2016**

**The Head Teacher and Chair of Governors have signed this policy. This is stored in the School Office.**

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| **Review date** | **Version number** | **By whom** | **Summary of changes made** | **Date implemented** | **Date ratified** |
| Dec 2019 | 2 | MA | No changes | Dec 19 |  |
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# Alvaston Infant and Nursery School

**Policy Statement for Female Genital Mutilation September 2016**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school’s safeguarding and child protection policy.

# Rationale

Alvaston Infant and Nursery School has robust and rigorous safeguarding procedures and practices and takes its responsibilities of child protection seriously. This policy should be read in conjunction with our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a form of child abuse and as such, is dealt with under the schools Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy. In our school, the Head Teacher and Governors expect Safeguarding to be everybody’s responsibility and expect all staff to adhere to and follow these policies.

# Definition of FGM

The school uses the World Health Organisation definition:

## “Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises of all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural or non-therapeutic reasons.” (World Health Organisation-1997)

The school has taken information from several documents to write this appendix. These include, Government Home Office Guidelines, Derby Safeguarding Children Board and NSPCC Guidance.

The UK Government has written advice and guidance on FGM that states:

* “FGM is considered child abuse in the UK and a grave violation of the human rights of girls and women. In all circumstances where FGM is practiced on a child it is a violation of the child’s right to life, their right to their bodily integrity, as well as their right to health. The UK Government has signed a number of international human rights laws against FGM, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child.”
* “Girls are at particular risk of FGM during school summer holidays. This is the time when families may take their children abroad for the procedure. Many girls may not be aware that they may be at risk of undergoing FGM.”
* “UK communities that are most at risk of FGM include Kenyans, Somalis, Sudanese, Sierra Leoneans, Egyptians, Nigerians and Eritreans. However women from non-African communities who are at risk of FGM include Yemeni, Kurdish, Indonesian and Pakistani women.”

From 31 October 2015 onwards, regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales have a mandatory requirement to report visually confirmed or verbally disclosed cases of FGM in girls under 18 to the police. (https://[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/469448/FGM-Mandatory-Reporting-](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/469448/FGM-Mandatory-Reporting-)procedural-info-FINAL.pdf)

In light of this information Alvaston Infant and Nursery School has decided to take proactive action to protect and prevent our girls being forced to undertake FGM. The Head Teacher and Governors do this in 4 ways:

1. A robust Attendance Policy that follows up any unexplained or extended absences.
2. FGM training for Child Protection leads and disseminated training for all staff at the front line dealing with the children (all our staff have Child Protection Training)
3. FGM discussions, as necessary, by Headteacher with parents of children from practicing communities who are at risk.
4. Age-appropriate and curriculum based PSHE, Relationship and Sex Education delivered to children in which a discussion about staying safe is a real focus and what to do if children feel anxious or unsafe in any environment.

In order to protect our children it is important that key information is known by all of the school community.

# Indications that FGM has taken place:

* Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
* Prolonged absences from school
* Spending long periods away from the classroom with urinary problems
* Reluctant to participate in PE lessons
* Noticeable changes in behaviour – FGM can result in post-traumatic stress
* Soreness, infection or unusual presentation when a nappy is changed
* Asking for help but not being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear

# Indications that a child is at risk of FGM:

* The family comes from a community known to practice FGM - especially if there are elderly women present.
* In conversation a child may talk about FGM.
* Parents seeking to withdraw their children from Relationships and Sex Education.
* A child may express anxiety about a special ceremony.
* The child may talk or have anxieties about forthcoming holidays to their country of origin.
* Parent/Guardian requests permission for authorised absence for overseas travel or you are aware that absence is required for vaccinations.

If a girl has already undergone FGM – and it comes to the attention of any professional, consideration needs to be given to any Child Protection implications e.g. for younger siblings and a referral must be made to Social Care and the Police. It is known that girls are more susceptible to FGB between the ages of 5 and 8.

# Record

All interventions should be accurately recorded following normal procedures for Safeguarding.

## Call police on 101 if you have information about FGM. In an emergency, dial 999.

# The Law

## FGM is illegal in the UK. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, civil and criminal legislation on FGM is contained in the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (the act). In Scotland, FGM legislation is contained in the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 was amended by sections 70-75 of the Serious Crime Act 2015.

## Offences of FGM

## It is an offence for any person (regardless of their nationality or residence status) to:

## Perform FGM in England and Wales (section 1 of the act)

## Assist a girl to carry out FGM on herself in England and Wales (section 2 of the act)

## Assist (from England or Wales) a non-UK person to carry out FGM outside the UK on a UK national or UK resident (section 3 of the act)

## If the mutilation takes place in England or Wales, the nationality or residence status of the victim is irrelevant.

## Failing to protect a girl from risk of FGM

## If an offence under sections 1, 2 or 3 of the act 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 an offence under Section 3A of the act.

## This policy will be reviewed in a period of three years or sooner if legislation dictates.