

Female Genital Mutilation Policy

Rationale:

Fundamental Movement Academy (FMA) has robust and rigorous safeguarding procedures and takes its responsibilities of child protection seriously.

Female Genital Mutilation is a form of child abuse and as such, is dealt with under the Academies Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy. At FMA, the management expects Safeguarding to be everybody's responsibility and expect all staff to adhere to and follow these policies.

FMA uses the World Health Organisation definition as written below.

Definition of FGM:

"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)

Government Documents:

The Academy has taken information from several documents to write this policy. These include, Government Home Office Guidelines, the *Ofsted* Guidelines for "Inspecting Safeguarding", 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 practised 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."

Designated senior staff for child protection at FMA should be aware of the guidance that is available in respect of FGM and should be vigilant to the risk of it being practised. Inspectors should also be alert to this when considering safeguarding arrangements and where appropriate, ask questions of designated staff.

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Key questions could include:

- Are designated senior staff for child protection aware of the issue and have ensured that staff in the Academy are aware of the potential risks?
- How alert are staff to the possible signs that a child has been subject to female genital mutilation or is at risk of being abused through it?
- Has the Academy taken timely and appropriate action in respect of concerns about particular children?"

In light of this information the Academy has decided to implement these policies and procedures:

Procedures FMA has in place:

FMA has decided to take proactive action to protect and prevent our girls being forced to undertake FGM. The Senior Management team do this in 2 ways:

1. FGM training for Child Protection Designated Safeguarding Officer and senior staff. Also disseminated training for all staff at the front line dealing with the children (all our staff are Safeguard Trained)
2. FGM Child Protection policy available on website for parents/carers especially of children from practising communities who are at risk.

In order to protect our children it is important that key information is known by all members of staff

Indications that FGM has taken place:

- Prolonged absence from training with noticeable behaviour change – especially after a return from holiday.
- Spend long periods of time away from the training during their sessions.
- A child who has undergone FGM should be seen as a child protection issue.

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.
- A child may express anxiety about a special ceremony.
- The child may talk or have anxieties about forthcoming holidays to their country of origin.
- If a woman 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, extended family members and a referral made to Social Care or the Police if appropriate.

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Record

All interventions should be accurately recorded.

Refer

The Designated Safeguarding Officer needs to seek advice about making referrals to Social Care and to follow Solihull's Safeguarding Boards on Child Protection Procedure Guidelines on FGM and CP referrals.

Useful documents include:

Working together to safeguard children, HM Government (2010), paragraphs 6.14 to 6.19.1

The Department for Education website;

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/pastoralcare/childprotection/a0072224/safeguarding-children-from-female-genital-mutilation>.

If a parent would like further information on FGM, or if they need advice or support they can contact:

- NSPCC FGM Helpline: 0800 028 3550 and emails sent to fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk (a resource for both community and professionals).
- FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development) 020 8960 4000 - www.forwarduk.org.uk
- Daughters of Eve 07983030488 - www.dofeve.org/stopping-fgm.html
- The Dahlia Project 020 7281 8970
- Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid 0121 685 8550 - www.bswaid.org
- African Well Woman's Service (Birmingham Heartlands Hospital) Alison Hughes 0781 7534274 (Weekly clinic Friday mornings)
- African Well Women's Service (Birmingham Women's hospital) Alison Hughes 07738 741614 (Weekly clinic Thursday mornings)

EMERGENCY SUPPORT

Call police on **101** if you have information about FGM, believe a child may be at risk or feel your child being cut and out of control. In an emergency, dial **999**.

Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111** or the NSPCC's FGM Helpline on **0800 028 3550**

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| Policy Implementation | |
| Developed with safeguarding group | |
| In conjunction with other Policies. | Safeguarding Policy |

Date agreed: 1st January 2020

Signed: M Neeld

APPROVED JUNE 2020