

# Female Genital Mutilation Policy

## Definition

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is illegal in England and Wales under the FGM Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”). It is a form of child abuse and violence against women. FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons.

It is important to note that FGM has no health benefits and harms girls and women in physical and psychological ways, for example, such as shock, pain hemorrhaging, depression, anxiety, to name only a few.

At Kingdom Preschool we have a thorough and strict safeguarding procedure and protecting children in our care is paramount. All members of staff are responsible to adhere and follow these policies.

We endeavor to adhere to the following:

- The safety and welfare of the child is paramount
- All agencies involved act in the interest of the rights of the child as stated in the UN convention 1989 and the Children’s act 1989.
- All professionals are made aware of the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM as a result of religious beliefs, nationality and other unusual events that could led to FGM e.g. a child being taken out of the setting for a six weeks or more by parents or relatives.

If a member of staff had concerns over a child, they would report it to the EYDSLP (Beth, Debbie or Rebecca) in the setting who would then decide whether a referral was needed to the **LADO or FGM Helpline [0800 028 3550](tel:0800 028 3550)**

## **Types of FGM**

Female genital mutilation is classified into four major types.

1. Clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris and, in very rare cases, the prepuce.
2. Excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora.
3. Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal
4. All other harmful procedures including deinfibulation.

## **FGM is performed because:**

- Social convention – there is social pressure to conform to the societal norm due to fear of being rejected by the community.
- Part of raising a girl – a rites to passage to prepare her for adulthood and marriage
- Belief that it is acceptable sexual behaviour to ensure premarital virginity, particularly in contexts where women are financially dependent on their husbands and so, marriageability (purity is a high priority) is a strong motivational factor in carrying out FGM.
- Cultural Idea of femininity and modesty – women are deemed clean and beautiful
- Cultural Tradition

### **Action at Kingdom**

Any incidents will be treated in the strictest confidence. Safeguarding the children in our care is a priority at all times and we will not tolerate any form of child abuse.

FGM most often occurs in girls between the ages of 7-10. Although our preschool children are not in this age bracket, we will still be vigilant in identifying signs and be particularly aware in After School and Holiday club.

#### **ALL STAFF:**

- Undergo FGM training
- Know and have read Kingdom Preschool's Policy on FGM
- Have a responsibility to know and care for children in the setting
- Have a responsibility to report to the EDSLP and their supervisor any safeguarding concerns, including changes of behaviour, a child being withdrawn or showing signs of anxiety and periods of absence, showing pain, and record this concern.
- Managers and EDSLPs have a responsibility to track any concerns and report any growing concern to the LADO or call the FGM helpline.
- Have a responsibility to act in accordance with Kingdom Preschool's safeguarding policy if a child makes a disclosure

Any incidents will be treated in the strictest confidence. Safeguarding the children in our care is a priority at all times and we will not tolerate any form of child abuse.

Updated 11.01.2018

BB/PS