



Broadwood and FGM

If you think that a child is at risk of FGM (e.g. they say they are going to have a special ceremony /are going on holiday to a country where FGM takes place /any other concerning comments /events) then report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or in their absence, one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. They will refer this information to social care services.

If you know that a child has experienced FGM then report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, or in their absence, one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads who will guide you through the process of reporting it to the police.

The following information is from the September 2016 'Keeping children safe in education'.

Further information can be found on the www.gov.uk website:

- Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation (April 2016)
- Multi-agency guidelines: Handling cases of forced marriage (June 2015)
- Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation: procedural information (October 2015)

FGM mandatory reporting duty

FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs. It is illegal in the UK and a form of child abuse with long-lasting harmful consequences. Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) places a statutory duty upon teachers along with regulated health and social care professionals in England and Wales, to report to the police where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining pupils, but the same definition of what is meant by "to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out" is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies. Information on when and how to make a report can be found at [Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information](#).

Teachers must personally report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. 81 Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should also still consider and discuss any such case with the school or college's designated safeguarding lead and involve children's social care as appropriate. The duty does not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases (i.e. where the teacher does not discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out, either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) or in cases where the woman is 18 or over. In these cases, teachers should follow local safeguarding procedures. The following is a useful summary of the FGM mandatory reporting duty: [FGM Fact Sheet](#).