

## **FGM Statement – Claverham Community College**

Claverham Community College recognises that the school plays a vital role in protecting and supporting girls at risk of or affected by FGM. Young people should be engaged and empowered to know about issues that affect them, their peers and their communities.

We are focused not only on awareness but also the role that everyone can play in supporting girls and ending the practice.

Pupils must be equipped to be able to support themselves, their peers and their siblings who may be at risk of or affected by FGM.

### **What is FGM?**

FGM is a **human rights violation, torture and an extreme form of violence and discrimination against girls and women**. It is most often carried out on girls between infancy and age 15, though adult women are occasionally subjected. FGM has no health benefits, only harm.

FGM involves **removing and damaging external female genitalia for non-medical reasons**, thereby interfering with the natural functions of girls' and women's bodies. FGM is generally done **without anaesthetic**. It ranges from the partial or total removal of the clitoris (**clitoridectomy**), to the removal of the entire clitoris and the cutting of the labia minora (**excision**), to its most extreme form, the removal of all external genitalia and the stitching together of the two sides of the vulva (**infibulation**) – all for non-medical reasons.

FGM can have **detrimental lifelong health consequences** including chronic infections; severe pain during urination, menstruation, sexual intercourse and childbirth; psychological trauma; and in some cases even death. It is estimated that more than 200 million girls and women globally have undergone FGM, and 30 million are at risk over the next decade. No one knows how many girls die each year from FGM.

The practice is **mostly carried out by traditional circumcisers**, who often play other central roles in communities, such as attending childbirths. However, according to a 2010 World Health Organization study of existing data, the **medicalization of FGM is increasing**. More than 18% of all girls and women who have been subjected to FGM had the procedure performed on them by a health-care provider; in some countries the rate is as high as 74%.

FGM is a violation of women's rights. It has been illegal in the UK since 2013 and carries a sentence of 14 years imprisonment. In 2015 a mandatory reporting duty was introduced.

### **Who is at risk?**

Mainly girls from families from these countries, though families from other countries can be involved. It is therefore paramount that staff training of signs and symptoms is up to date and a watchful approach is taken to absence.

- **Egypt**
- **Ethiopia**
- **Eritrea**
- **Nigeria**
- **Sierra Leone**
- **Somalia**
- **Sudan**
- **Chad**
- **Guinea Bissau**
- **Gambia**

### **Risk Level at Claverham Community College**

Risk level is very low as there are no families currently in the school from risk areas.

We continue to be vigilant about any girls being taken out of school for extended breaks to any country. There is a clear protocol with the attendance officer who is fully aware of FGM and risk indicators. All staff have received inset on FGM and are aware that any concerns will be reported immediately to the DSL of safeguarding team.

### **Who is responsible?**

Everyone is responsible. The school will follow Child Protection Procedures. Whole school safeguarding training, which included FGM, was last delivered in July 2016. Additional training was given in September 2017. The DSL at Claverham Community College provides safeguarding training once a term, FGM will always be covered annually but in addition staff will be updated as required. Staff have opportunities to ask questions during staff meetings/pastoral care team meetings.

The DSL and deputy DSL and safeguarding officers are all up-to-date with their DSL training which includes FGM and are aware of mandatory reporting.

### **Responsibilities**

We annually assess the risk and are clear on who to contact with any concerns.

**Contact details**

**NSPCC – 08000283550 for advice and concerns**

**SPOA - (1<sup>st</sup> Point of Contact for all referrals East and West of county)**

**Telephone:** 01323 464222

**Email:** [spoa@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:spoa@eastsussex.gov.uk)

**LADO**

**Telephone:** 07825 782793

**Email:** [amanda.glover@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.glover@eastsussex.gov.uk)

**SAFEGUARDING UNIT** (If LADO is on leave but consultation required)

**Telephone:** 01323 466606

**Email:** [lado@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:lado@eastsussex.gov.uk)

**Contact police to conduct investigation**

**FGM helpline 08000283550** [fgmhelp@nspcc.org](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org)