



## FGM Statement

Schools play 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.

Students are 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?**

Girls of any age are at risk from the tradition of removal or partial removal of female genitalia. It is a violation of woman's rights. It is 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:*

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

### **Risk Level in Willingdon Community School**

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

We continue to be vigilant about any girls being taken out of school for extended breaks to any country. Any concerns will be reported to the DSL/ 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 September 2020 and staff will be updated in September 2021. Staff have opportunities to ask questions during staff / support staff meetings.

There are 13 members of the safeguarding team who are up to date with the DSL training which includes FGM. Three of the DSLs has completed the Home office on line training on Prevent.  
<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

## Responsibilities

School assess risk and will contact relevant agencies if they have any concerns.

## Contact Details

**NSPCC – 0800 0283550 for advice and concerns** The [NSPCC](#) operates a free [national FGM helpline](#), which offers guidance to thousands of people, including professionals. The FGM helpline is staffed by specialised practitioners, who are all trained to identify the risk of FGM. The helpline can offer advice and support: if you are worried about a child who is at risk of FGM, if somebody has already undergone an FGM procedure or if you have any questions regarding FGM.

The helpline is available seven days a week between the following hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 10pm and Saturday and Sunday 9pm to 6pm. You can call and choose to remain anonymous on 0800 028 3550 or email [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk).

## SPOA – (1st Point Of Contact for all referrals East and West of county)

**Telephone:** 01323 464222 **Email:** [spoa@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:spoa@eastsussex.gov.uk) Out of hours, with serious concerns that can't wait till the next working day, contact our Emergency Duty Service. **01273 335906** or **01273 335905** – (Monday to Thursday 5pm to 8.30am, after 4.30pm on Fridays, weekends and bank holidays).

Or email [0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk)

## LADO

Refer directly to the [Single Point of Advice \(SPOA\)](#) when a child is at risk of, or has suffered, significant harm and an adult who is working or volunteering with children has:

- behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
- behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she may pose a risk of harm to children; or
- behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

For other concerns about conduct, you can make a referral to the LADO.

[Report an allegation](#)

**Contact police to conduct investigation**

**FGM helpline 0800 0283550** [fgmhelp@nspcc.org](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org)