



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Policy statement:

Katey's House LTD 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 nursery safeguarding children and child protection policy and procedures. The nursery uses the World Health Organisation definition as written below:

“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 where for cultural or non- therapeutic reasons (World Health Organisation- 1997)”.

The nursery has taken information from several documents to write this policy. These include; the Government Home Office guidelines and Ofsted guidelines for “inspecting safeguarding”. The UK government has written advice and guidance on FGM that states;

“FGM is considered as 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 includes Kenyans, Somalis, Sudanese, sierra Leoneans, Egyptians, Nigerians and Eritreans. However, women from non-African communities that are risk of FG include Yemeni, Kurdish, Indonesians and Pakistani women”.

Our designated senior staff for safeguarding are aware of the guidance that is available through the local authority's safeguarding childrens board in respect of FGM, and are vigilant to the risk of it being practiced.

Key questions which this policy addresses are:

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

In light of this information, Katey's House Ltd attempts to implement these procedures:

- Compulsory FGM awareness training for safeguarding leads and all staff at the front line dealing with the children.
- FGM discussion by safeguarding lead with parents of children from practising communities who are at risk.
- Promotion and awareness of FGM in our nursery i.e through newsletters and hand-outs.



Indications that FGM has taken place:

- Prolong absence from the nursery with noticeable behaviour changes – especially after return from holiday.
- Spend long periods of time away the class during the day.

Professional Response

The appropriate response to FGM is to follow usual child protection procedures to ensure: Immediate protection and support for the child/ren.

Referral: where a child under 18 years has undergone FGM professionals should report it to the Police and the local authority's Safeguarding Children's board. Mandatory Reporting Duty applies. If a child under 18 years old discloses to a professional that they have undergone FGM or where physical signs indicate FGM has been carried out, there is a mandatory duty on that professional to report to the police by calling '101', the non-emergency number, within 48 hours. It is the personal duty of that professional; the duty to report to police cannot be passed on or delegated to another professional.

Tell them;

- Explain that you are making a report under the FGM mandatory reporting duty.
- Give them your details: name, contact details (work telephone number and e-mail address) & times when you will be available to be called back, Your role and place of work
- Give them the girl's details: name, age/date of birth, address,
- Confirm that you have undertaken, or will undertake, safeguarding actions such as a referral to Children's Social Care.
- Ensure you are given a reference number.

All our Policies & Procedures are crafted to ensure the highest possible standards at our setting and will be reviewed every 3 years, or sooner if necessary, in light of specific events or relevant statutory changes.