



# **CODICOTE PRE-SCHOOL**

**ST. GILES PARISH CENTRE, BURY LANE, CODICOTE SG4 8XX +44 (0)7542 285 412**

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## **1.8 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

Our staff take part in regular training on FGM as part of their continued professional development and as part of our safeguarding procedures.

### **What if FGM?**

FGM is illegal in the UK. However it is a practice that takes place worldwide in at least 28 African countries and in parts of the Middle and Far East. It also takes place within parts of Western Europe and other developed countries, primarily among immigrant and refugee communities. UK communities that are at risk of FGM include Somali, Kenyan, Ethiopian, Sierra Leonean, Sudanese, Egyptian, Nigerian, Eritrean, Yemeni, Kurdish and Indonesian women and girls.

FGM is a complex issue - despite the harm it causes, many women and men from practising communities consider it to be normal to protect their cultural identity.

FGM is believed to be a way of ensuring virginity and chastity. It is used to safeguard girls from sex outside marriage and from having sexual feelings. Although FGM is practised by secular communities, it is most often claimed to be carried out in accordance with religious beliefs. FGM is not supported by any religious doctrine.

### **Criminal law in England and Wales**

Under section 1 of the act, a person is guilty of an FGM offence if they excise, infibulate or otherwise mutilate the whole or any part of a girl's or woman's labia majora, labia minora or clitoris. To excise is to remove part or all of the clitoris and the inner labia (lips that surround the vagina), with or without removal of the labia majora (larger outer lips). To infibulate is to narrow the vaginal opening by creating a seal, formed by cutting and repositioning the labia.

### **Where to get help & Advice on FGM**

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).

### **Safeguarding**



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The action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harms such as FGM is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play. More information is available in the following guidance:

- [Working together to safeguard children 2018 \(England\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

## Mandatory reporting of FGM

Since 31 October 2015, regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales have been subject to an FGM mandatory reporting duty. They are legally required to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s, which they identify in the course of their professional work, to the **police**.

### ***Sourced from Home Office FGM resource pack updated February 2020***

This policy was adopted by	Codicote Pre-school	<i>(name of provider)</i>
On	21/10/2020	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	21/10/2021	<i>(date)</i>
Approved on behalf of the Codicote Pre-School		
Name of signatory	Edel Ryding	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	Chairperson	