



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM IS ILLEGAL

INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)

FEMALE CIRCUMCISION & CUTTING

It has been estimated that over 20,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of FGM in the UK each year, and that 66,000 women in the UK are living with the consequences of FGM. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a growing cause of concern in schools.

FGM is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls, and therefore it is dealt with as part of existing child and adult safeguarding/protection structures, policies and procedures.

It is illegal in the UK to subject a child to female genital mutilation (FGM) or to take a child abroad to undergo the procedure – Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

Despite the harm it causes, FGM practising communities consider it normal to protect their cultural identity. The age at which girls are subject to FGM varies greatly from shortly after birth to any time up to adulthood. The average age is 10 to 12 years.

At Chalkhill, our staff are trained in dealing with FGM and are alerted to the following key indicators:

A child's family comes from a community that is known to practise FGM.

- A child may talk about a long holiday to a country where the practice is prevalent.
- A child may confide that she is to have a 'special procedure' or to attend a special occasion.
- A child may request help from a teacher or another adult.

From October 2015 if a teacher discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl who is aged under 18, there will be a statutory duty upon that individual to report it to the police

Any information or concern that a child is at risk of or has undergone FGM will result in a child protection referral to Children's Social Care.

Brent Family Front Door Tel: 020 8937 4300

Email: brent.lscb@brent.gov.uk

Call the FGM helpline if you're worried a child is at risk of, or has had, FGM. It's free, anonymous and they are available 24/7.

NSPCC: 0800 028 3550

Email: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

Other sites that can help:

NHS Choices: Medical advice and information about FGM

Forward: Advice and counselling for anyone affected by FGM.

Daughters of Eve: Support for young people from women who have experienced FGM themselves.

GOV.UK: Read what the Government has to say about FGM and a quick list of places you can get help.