

1.2c Safeguarding children and child protection: Child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation (FGM)

Policy statement

Our setting will work with children, parents and the community to ensure the rights and safety of children and to give them the very best start in life.

As stated in policy 1.2 Safeguarding children and child protection, concerns regarding child sexual exploitation and FGM will be dealt with in the same way as any other safeguarding concerns.

Child sexual exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, children or members of their family may be persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. Consent cannot be given, even where a child or young person may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact and can happen online.

Some of the following may be indicators of sexual exploitation:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Associating with other young people involved with exploitation
- Having older boyfriends/girlfriends
- Suffering from sexually transmitted infections or becoming pregnant
- Changes in emotional well-being
- Misuse of drugs or alcohol
- Regularly missing education sessions

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

As professionals, we need to be alert to the possibility of a girl being at risk of FGM, or already having suffered FGM.

Potential indicators that a child or young person may be at risk of FGM include:

- Knowing that the family belongs to a community in which FGM is practised and is making preparations to take the child on a holiday, arranging vaccinations and/or planning absence from the setting. The child may also talk about a special procedure/ceremony that is going to take place. We must be aware that girls at risk of FGM may not yet know of the practice or that it may be conducted on them.

Indicators that FGM may already have occurred include:

- Prolonged absence from the setting
- Noticeable change in behaviour on return from absence including possible bladder problems
- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing, and looking uncomfortable
- Spending longer than normal in the toilet
- Complaining about pain between their legs
- Talking of something somebody did to them that they are not allowed to talk about.

While we are aware that the above are unlikely to affect the young children in our care, we may become aware of any of these factors affecting older children and young people with whom we may come into contact.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	<u>Filton Park Preschool Playgroup</u>	<i>(name of provider)</i>
Held on	<u></u>	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	<u>Sept/Oct 2020</u>	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider	<u></u>	
Name of signatory	<u>Adrian Reed</u>	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	<u>Chair</u>	