

### **Where to get help :**

If you have any questions or concerns about FGM, please do not hesitate to contact the safeguarding lead at the school.

Tel: 01737 553255– Ask for a member of the safeguarding team

If you know someone who is going to enforce FGM on a child, or if a child tells you they are going to be having FGM, you must tell someone who can help.

Croydon CCG Safeguarding Team:

0203 668 1345

MASH Consultation Line:

0208 726 6400

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC FGM 24 hour helpline:

0800 028 3550

Police: 101

Email: [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

### **More information on FGM:**

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/female-genital-mutilation>

### **FGM and The Law**

It is against the law in the UK for anyone to carry out FGM on women and girls. It is against the law to take women and girls who are living in the UK to a different country to carry out FGM. It is against the law to help someone else carry out FGM. If a person carries out FGM, or helps someone carry out the FGM, they could be made to pay a fine, and to go to prison for up to 14 years.



## FGM

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## Female Genital Mutilation

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*Article 17: every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources*

### What is FGM?

FGM is the removal of part, or all of the external female genitalia. It also includes any other injury to the external female genitalia which is not done for any medical reason.

### Types of FGM:

**FGM type 1:** Clitoridectomy is the partial or total removal of the clitoris.

**FGM type 2:** Excision is the partial or total removal of the clitoris and labia minora, with or without the removal of the labia majora (Labia are the lips that surround the vagina).

**FGM type 3:** Infibulation is removing some or all of the female genitalia including the clitoris, sewing the edges together to leave a tiny hole.

**FGM type 4:** All other harmful procedures to female genitalia for non-medical purposes e.g. pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterising and genitalia.

### Where FGM started

- People think that Pharaohs in Egypt started doing FGM.
- Culture and tradition make some people from a number of countries perform FGM.

### Some countries that practice FGM :

Somalia, Guinea, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Mali, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Burkina, Faso, Gambia, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Liberia, Bissau, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal Central AR Yemen, Tanzania, Benin, Iraq, Ghana, Togo.



### **New duty for health and social care professionals and teachers to report FGM to the police**

On 31 October 2015 a new duty was introduced that requires health and social care professionals and teachers to report 'known' cases of FGM in girls aged under 18 to the police. For example, if a girl tells her teacher that she has had FGM, the teacher will need to report this to the police.

### FGM Health Problems:

- Broken bones
- Severe pain
- Repeated infections which make it very painful to go to the toilet
- Infections could stop you from getting pregnant
- Women and girls who have undergone FGM often feel sad and depressed
- A sense of shame and isolation

### What to look out for:

- Girls taking a long period of time off from school – this could be before, after and inclusive of the Summer holidays
- A 'festival' or 'celebration' within any of the countries listed
- Difficulty in a girl sitting down
- Discomfort changing for PE
- Discomfort in going to the toilet or going very regularly
- Use of the word 'cutting'