

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

The statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' published in April 2014, asks schools to ensure that they raise awareness of FGM.

'Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision, cutting or sunna.' NSPCC 2014

Female Genital Mutilation occurs mainly in Africa and, to a lesser extent, in the Middle East and Asia. Although it is believed by many to be a religious issue, it is a cultural practice. There are no health benefits. FGM is child abuse. It's dangerous and a criminal offence.

Please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Wellsway School if you have any concerns in relation to students being at risk of FGM.

- Praise them for telling you and reassure them that they have done the right thing in letting you know what is happening.
- Use your best listening skills. Accept your son or daughter's feelings, encourage him/her to talk about any worries by listening.
- Try to find out the facts - what exactly has happened?
- Help your son or daughter to think about what s/he would like to happen, and ask how you can help.
- Talk to him/her about why people bully to reinforce the point that your son/daughter is not the problem.
- Encourage your son or daughter to talk to his/her Head of House or Learning Mentor. If s/he does not want to then it is advisable for you, preferably with your son/daughter's support, to make the Head of House or Learning Mentor aware that this is how s/he is feeling. Arrangements can be made for you to speak to a member of staff without making other students aware that this is being done. The sooner we know about a problem the quicker we are able to put in place appropriate intervention for all students involved and prevent bullying happening.

When you talk to the school, stay calm and give specific details. Remember that we are partners with you and both want the best for your son or daughter.

Bullying destroys confidence and your son or daughter will be feeling vulnerable. Make him/her feel loved, valued and important.