



**BRADFORD ACADEMY
TRUST**

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Female Genital Mutilation Statement

Approved by:	Board	Date: December 2025
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Related Documents		
Guidance		
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The prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the UK is difficult to estimate because of the nature of the crime. However, the World Health Organization estimates that over 20,000 girls under the age of 15 in the UK are at risk of FGM each year. It is practiced in over 28 countries in Africa, some in the Middle East and Asia, but as communities are now migrating, it is becoming a growing concern. Girls could be taken abroad over the school holidays for the procedure or cutters are flown into the area.

FGM is a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls, sometimes known as 'female genital cutting' or female circumcision. It is seen by some communities as essential to preserve a girl's purity and honor, but this is not the case. It is a way of socially controlling women and is included in the government's domestic abuse definition.

What is it?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is any procedure that involves the partial or complete removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for no medical reason.

All types of FGM are illegal in the UK; it is an offence to take a female out of the UK for FGM or for anyone to circumcise women or girls for cultural or non-medical reasons here in the UK.

The warning signs

Girls and women from practising FGM communities talking about holidays where they will 'become a woman' or 'become just like my mum and sister'.

If women in the family have already undergone FGM then there is an increased risk to other girls in the family.

Girls who have had the procedure performed will often avoid exercise on their return to school, ask to go to the toilet more often, find it hard to sit still for long periods or may have further time off school due to problems related to the procedure.

1. Policy Statement

Bradford Academy is committed to safeguarding all learners and eradicating the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This policy outlines the Academy's approach to prevention, awareness, and reporting in line with statutory requirements.

2. Legal Framework

FGM is illegal in the United Kingdom under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and the Serious Crime Act 2015.

Teachers have a statutory duty to report to the police if they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18.

3. Academy Commitments

- Acknowledge the legal position of FGM and ensure compliance with all relevant legislation.
- Include FGM as a category of abuse within Child Protection policies and safeguarding training.
- Provide comprehensive staff training to: Recognize warning signs of FGM and understand legal responsibilities regarding reporting.
- Raise awareness through the PSHE curriculum in a sensitive manner that respects cultural diversity.

4. Procedures for Staff

- Discuss concerns with the individual using clear, simple language or consult a Child Protection colleague to plan an appropriate response.
- Remember: FGM is illegal and no one is allowed to physically or emotionally harm others.
- Report concerns on CPOMs, detailing precisely what led to the concern.
- Immediate risk: If someone is at immediate risk of FGM, contact the police without delay.

5. Sources of Information and Support

- Government leaflet on FGM: <https://www.gov.uk>
- NSPCC – Advice and Information: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk>
- Petals App – Awareness Training: <http://petals.coventry.ac.uk>

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation changes.