

Preventing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in schools What support is available?

Information about FGM

Female Genital Mutilation: The Facts

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-leaflet>

Ending FGM poster

Produced by the NSPCC

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/be-the-mother-who-ends-fgm-poster>

Primary and special schools

FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development) Primary Schools Programme "My Body My Rules"

- **Training for staff** covering basic information, identifying and safeguarding girls at risk and providing support for those affected by FGM
- **Pupil Awareness Sessions** age appropriate approach to explore the issue of FGM within the context of human rights
- **Advice and Guidance** for schools

More information at www.forwardyouth.org.uk

To find out about costs and to book please contact youth@forwarduk.org.uk or Vanessa@forwarduk.org.uk 020 8960 4000

There are no specific lessons for primary schools but Forward UK has produced an animation about FGM that they have used as part of their pupil awareness sessions

- My Body My Rules a 3 minute animation about FGM in the context of children's right not to be harmed and to be kept safe.
<http://forwarduk.org.uk/what-we-do/uk-programmes/schools-programme/> or at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2IStB6Z3Vw>

Secondary and special schools

FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development) Secondary Schools Programme "Creating Change Amongst Young People"

- **Training for staff** basic information, identifying and safeguarding girls at risk and providing support for those affected by FGM
- **Student Awareness Sessions** using FORWARD's lesson plan –know what FGM is, know that it is harmful and illegal and know where to get help and support. The sessions can also be tailored to individual classes and year groups.

- **Youth Friendly Resources** leaflets and posters
- **Outreach or Drop-in Sessions** as part of existing services or as a stall at a health day
- **One-to-one Support** for girls and young women affected by FGM
- **Advice and Guidance** for schools
- **Involving students** who want to take further action on FGM
- **Training** for staff and older students who want to deliver FGM sessions for young people in schools
- **Website for young people** aged 11-25 years

More information for schools and the website for young people at www.forwardyouth.org.uk

To find out about costs and to book please contact youth@forwarduk.org.uk or Vanessa@forwarduk.org.uk **020 8960 4000**

Teaching about FGM

- FGM schools programme <http://forwarduk.org.uk/what-we-do/uk-programmes/schools-programme/>
- The FGM Game produced by Bristol NHS <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fgm-support-materials>
- These are our Friends-a 5 minute film made by young people to speak out against FGM <http://www.forwarduk.org.uk/what-we-do/uk-programmes/uk-youth-fgm-programmes/>
- A Change has Begun a 10 minute film with survivor-led accounts of life with FGM describing the positive shift of attitude within practicing communities in the UK <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBRRS6y2-68>
- Think Again a 7 minute film made by young people that follows a 12-year-old's struggle between family honor and the facts about FGM. On discovering that her mother wants to take her back home to be 'cut' she explores the implications that FGM has on her life and the misconceptions that explain why the practice persists in the 21st century <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzBNTtR7toE>

Involving Parents and the Community

A Statement Opposing Female Genital Mutilation (December 2016)

A small booklet, often referred to as the “Health Passport”, produced for people to take when they go abroad and show to their families. It has information about FGM and makes it clear that FGM is a serious criminal offence in the UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-opposing-female-genital-mutilation>

The **British Somali Community** (BSC) in Camden is a women’s led organisation with in depth knowledge, expertise and experience of FGM and can provide training and support to primary schools to help prevent FGM and protect children. They offer:

- Training for staff** covering what FGM is, the law, cultural issues, how to safeguard children, what schools can do to prevent FGM
- Briefing sessions for parents** covering information about FGM and how parents can support their schools in preventing FGM
- Involving the community**-advice and support about working with the community to prevent FGM

To find out about costs and to book please contact
Khadija Shireh info@britishsomali.org 020 7383 2803 or 07903 992 528

FORWARD (Foundation for Women’s Health, Research and Development)

- **Parent awareness sessions** for primary and secondary schools

To find out about costs and to book please contact
youth@forwarduk.org.uk or Vanessa@forwarduk.org.uk **020 8960 4000**

Safeguarding requirements, referrals and government advice and support

- **Mandatory reporting to Police of known cases of FGM on girls under the age of 18.** This is a legal duty for schools as set out in the CSCB guidance available at: <http://www.cscb-new.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/FGM-mandatory-reporting-guide.pdf>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information>
- **Reporting cases where a girl is thought to be at risk of FGM or there is a concern that it may have taken place.** Report immediately to the designated safeguarding/child protection lead, make a referral to the Children and Families Contact Team (including Early Help and MASH) using an e-CAF referral record or call 020 7974 3317 or LBCMASHadmin@camden.gov.uk or contact the Police. *It is essential that the young person’s parents are not spoken to before a referral is sent to children’s social care.*

Advice and Guidance

- Keeping Children Safe in Education-statutory guidance for schools and colleges September 2016
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education>

- Female Genital Mutilation-Multi-agency practice guidelines updated April 2016
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>
- FGM resource pack Home office May 2016
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>
- FGM Clinic-a monthly children's clinic at UCLH for girls under 18 who have had FGM or are suspected to be or are at risk of FGM. Referrals are taken from a wide range of professionals. To book an appointment or get advice, please call 0203 447 7396 or fax 0203 447 9064 or email UCLH.PaediatricSafeguarding@nhs.net

Other support

- The NSPCC has set up a helpline for anyone who is worried a child may be at risk of FGM. Calls can be made anonymously to the free 24 hour FGM helpline on 0800 028 3550 or by emailing fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk Also see www.nspcc.org.uk/fgm
- The Dahlia Project run by the Health Advocacy Service provides support for survivors of FGM. Contact Alev Erce alev@manorgardenscentre.org