

THE IVORY FEDERATION

Propps Hall Junior, Infant and Nursery School Springhead Infant and Nursery School Rushcroft Primary School **Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation , Female Genital Mutilation & Honour or Faith-Based Abuse**

This policy relates to the following legislation:

- Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Equality Act 2010
- Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation (updated July 2020)
- Child Sexual Exploitation - definition and guide for practitioners (DfE 2017)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges (DfE 2026)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children (2026)
- Serious Crime Act 2015 (Mandatory Reporting Duty for Female Genital Mutilation)

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and take account of the information contained in the DfE documents *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026* and *Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges 2026*, as the safety and protection of children is of paramount importance to everyone in our schools.

RATIONALE

We have the responsibility to observe the educational, social, behavioural, physical and emotional welfare of all pupils. Therefore, we must be alert to and ensure that we act immediately if we believe someone is displaying any of the physical, behavioural or psychological warning signs that may lead to CSE, FGM or HBA as defined below.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation is a type of sexual abuse in which children or young persons under the age of 18 are sexually exploited for money, power or status and is best defined as: involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example, being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Child criminal exploitation is a type of abuse in which children are forced or manipulated into transporting drugs or money through county lines, working in cannabis factories, shoplifting, or pickpocketing. They can also be forced or manipulated into committing vehicle crime or threatening/ committing serious violence to others. Children can become trapped by this type of exploitation, as perpetrators can threaten victims (and their families) with violence or entrap and coerce them into debt. They may be coerced into carrying weapons such as knives or begin to carry a knife for a sense of protection from harm from others.

As children involved in criminal exploitation often commit crimes themselves, their vulnerability as victims is not always recognised by adults and professionals, (particularly older children), and they are not treated as victims despite the harm they have experienced. They may still have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears to be something they have agreed or consented to. It is important to note that the experience of girls who are criminally exploited can be very different to that of boys. The indicators may not be the same, however professionals should be aware that girls are at risk of criminal exploitation too. It is also important to note that both boys and girls being criminally exploited may be at higher risk of sexual exploitation.

Children who have been criminally exploited should be recognised and responded to as victims of abuse, even where they have committed offences as part of their exploitation.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is a criminal offence – it is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls particularly within some communities, and therefore should be treated as such. It is illegal in England and Wales to allow girls to undergo this practice, which involves the 'partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons'. Cases should be dealt with as part of existing

structures, policies and procedures on child protection and adult safeguarding. There are, however, particular characteristics of FGM that front-line professionals should be aware of to ensure that they can provide appropriate protection and support to those affected.

In line with the Serious Crime Act 2015, teachers have a mandatory duty to report known cases of Female Genital Mutilation in under 18s directly to the police. All other concerns must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Honour or Faith-Based Abuse (HBA)

Honour or faith-based abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving honour can involve a wider network of family or community pressure and may involve multiple perpetrators. All forms of HBA are abuse, regardless of the motivation, and will be treated and escalated as such.

PURPOSE

- To safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people.
- To teach pupils how they can protect themselves from sexual exploitation by them making positive choices and informed decisions in their relationships.
- To create a school learning environment that promotes healthy friendships and good relationships between pupils and school personnel so that pupils feel confident enough to disclose any concerns they may have.
- To observe the educational, social, behavioural, physical and emotional welfare of all pupils.
- To raise awareness of the signs of Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Honour-Based Violence across the organisation.

BROAD GUIDELINES

Roles and Responsibilities

LEADERSHIP TEAM

- assess the risk of children being drawn into child exploitation;
- take the lead in dealing with child protection issues and in deciding what steps should be taken;
- raise awareness that female genital mutilation (FGM) affects girls, particularly within some communities where the practice may occur, and it is illegal to allow girls to undergo this practice either in this country or abroad;
- raise awareness of the need to protect pupils who might be vulnerable to FGM, HBA and CSE and ensure that all concerns regarding FGM, HBA and CSE are reported and acted upon ;
- create a safe and stimulating learning environment where pupils feel safe and confident to fully participate in lessons and other learning activities;
- ensure that MASH (IDVA Duty Line) is contacted before discussions take place with parents in order to reduce the risk of further harm;
- ensure the pastoral care worker / parental liaison works closely with parents and promotes preventative parenting and practice with regards to CSE, FGM and HBA;
- work with parents to prevent pupils from being exploited or put at risk;
- work in close partnership with the Local Safeguarding Partnership;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;

STAFF

- recognise that child protection is their main responsibility;
- treat children's welfare with the utmost importance and sensitivity;
- develop pupils' self-confidence and self-esteem;
- attend any available awareness training that deals with the risk factors, signs and indicators of child CSE, FGM and HBA;
- teach a curriculum that raises awareness of:
 - *the importance of healthy relationships and friendships*
 - *appropriate touch*
 - *keeping safe (including 'online' safety)*
 - *recognising and assessing risk*
 - *knowing how and where to get help when needed*

- in Upper Key Stage 2, teach pupils about the risk of CSE and FGM;
- be alert at all times to the signs of abuse namely physical, emotional, sexual or neglect;
- know how to report any suspected case of harm or abuse;
- report any concerns that they have about children who are at risk of FGM, CSE and HBA;
- establish a school and classroom environment where children feel safe to talk and where school personnel listen to children;
- provide opportunities through the curriculum to address relevant issues and topics to promote their safety and well-being;
- encourage pupils to assess risks to themselves;
- report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- follow the school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy relating to raising concerns and responding to disclosures;
- not promise confidentiality to any child but always act in the interests of a child;
- receive support and counselling if they feel distressed from being involved with a case or incident;
- ensure that they conduct themselves correctly at all times and do not put themselves at risk;
- take note of the following signs of FGM:
 - *Difficulty walking, standing or sitting.*
 - *Spending longer in the bathroom or toilet.*
 - *Appearing withdrawn, anxious or depressed.*
 - *Displaying unusual behaviour after an absence from school or college.*
 - *Being particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations.*
 - *Asking for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.*

REPORTING PROCEDURE

All concerns regarding CSE, CCE, FGM or HBA must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL. Staff must not investigate concerns themselves. All concerns will be recorded in line with the school's safeguarding recording system and referrals to Children's Social Care or the Police will be made where appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Through the effective implementation of this policy, we will have a school community that is fully aware of the risks that the children are exposed to and have procedures in place for dealing with child exploitation, female genital mutilation and honour-based violence. As a result, the safety of all children will be paramount.

The practical application of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises by the Senior Leadership Team.

Policy updated August 2026

Oldham Specialist Independent Domestic Violence Service (IDVA): **0161 770 1572** (Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm)

Linked Policies

*Safeguarding and Child Protection
Behaviour*

Extremism and Radicalisation

Online Safety, Acceptable Use & Filtering and Monitoring Policy.