



**All Saints C of E Infant and Nursery
School**

**Selston C of E Infant and Nursery
School**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Policy

*“Opening hearts and minds through
the grace and love of God”*

**Reviewed: September 2023
Next Review Date: September 2024**

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) INFANT AND NURSERY
SCHOOL
SELSTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VC) INFANT AND NURSERY
SCHOOL**

MISSION STATEMENT

Opening hearts and minds through the grace and love of God

At All Saints Infant and Nursery School and Selston Infant and Nursery School children always come first and we try to nourish, challenge, prepare and inspire them within a Christian ethos.

We believe in valuing all who contribute towards the successful running of our schools including children, parents, carers, governors, teaching and non-teaching staff.

This Mission Statement lies at the heart of our schools' aims. It is the philosophical basis for all of the schools' policies and through these, for everything that happens in and round our schools. Our aspiration is for everyone at All Saints and Selston to:

- feel happy, secure, safe and valued at school
- develop a growing awareness of their own inner self and spirituality, and of the power of the Christian faith to transform lives
- develop healthy relationships based on care, trust, compassion and forgiveness
- show acceptance for and understanding of others who may have different beliefs or needs
- strive for the highest standards of achievement, developing the confidence and skills to be independent, motivated and self-disciplined learners
- have a positive approach to life, contributing to the well-being of the community and building hope for the future

We hope that children will leave our schools with open hearts and minds, ready to respond to the opportunities that lie before them and to experience the joy of life in all its fullness.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Rationale

All Saints Infant and Nursery School and Selston Infant and Nursery School has robust and rigorous safeguarding procedures and practices and takes its responsibilities of child protection seriously.

Female Genital Mutilation is a form of child abuse and as such, is dealt with under the schools Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy. At All Saints Infant and Nursery School and Selston Infant and Nursery School, the Executive Head Teacher and Governors expect Safeguarding to be everybody's responsibility and expect all staff to adhere to and follow these policies.

Definition of FGM

The school uses the World Health Organisation definition:

***“Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises of all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural or non-therapeutic reasons.”
(World Health Organisation-1997)***

The UK Government has written advice and guidance on FGM that states:

- “FGM is considered child abuse in the UK and a grave violation of the human rights of girls and women. In all circumstances where FGM is practised on a child it is a violation of the child's right to life, their right to their bodily integrity, as well as their right to health. The UK Government has signed a number of international human rights laws against FGM, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child.”
- “Girls are at particular risk of FGM during school summer holidays. This is the time when families may take their children abroad for the procedure. Many girls may not be aware that they may be at risk of undergoing FGM.”
- “UK communities that are most at risk of FGM include Kenyans, Somalis, Sudanese, Sierra Leoneans, Egyptians, Nigerians and Eritreans. However women from non-African communities who are at risk of FGM include Yemeni, Kurdish, Indonesian and Pakistani women.”

From 31 October 2015 onwards, regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales have a mandatory requirement to report visually confirmed or verbally disclosed cases of FGM in girls under 18 to the police.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a8086f2ed915d74e33faefc/FGM_Mandatory_Reporting_-_procedural_information_nov16_FINAL.pdf

In light of this information All Saints Infant and Nursery School and Selston Infant and Nursery School has decided to take proactive action to protect and prevent our girls being forced to undertake FGM. The Executive Head Teacher and Governors do this in 4 ways:

1. A robust Attendance Policy that does not authorise holidays, extended or otherwise.
2. FGM training for Child Protection DSPs and disseminated training for all staff at the front line dealing with the children (all our staff are Safeguard Trained)
3. FGM discussions by Child Protection DSPs with parents of children from practising communities who are at risk.
4. Comprehensive PSHE and Healthy Relationships Education delivered to children which discuss the important issue of 'keeping your privates private'. Work completed in conjunction with NSPCC 'Let's Talk Pants' <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

In order to protect our children it is important that key information is known by all of the school community.

Indications that FGM has taken place:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Prolonged absences from school
- Spending long periods away from the classroom with urinary problems
- Reluctant to undergo medical examinations
- Soreness, infection or unusual presentation when a nappy is changed
- Asking for help but not being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear

Indications that a child is at risk of FGM:

- The family comes from a community known to practice FGM - especially if there are elderly women present.
- In conversation a child may talk about FGM.
- Parents seeking to withdraw their children from learning about FGM.
- A child may express anxiety about a special ceremony.
- The child may talk or have anxieties about forthcoming holidays to their country of origin.

Parent/Guardian requests permission for authorised absence for overseas travel or you are aware that absence is required for vaccinations.

If a woman has already undergone FGM – and it comes to the attention of any professional, consideration needs to be given to any Child Protection implications e.g. for younger siblings, extended family members and a referral made to Social Care or the Police.

Record

All interventions will be accurately recorded on CPOMs.