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Learning ,Living and Growing in God's Love



Our new female genital mutilation (FGM) mandatory reporting arrangements

Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you of the new policies and procedures we have put in place in order to comply with the government's new regulations.

FGM is illegal in the UK. Under the Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003), it is an offence to perform or to assist a girl in carrying out FGM, and it is illegal to assist a person in carrying out FGM outside the UK on a UK national. Under the Act, it is also illegal to take a girl abroad for the purpose of performing FGM. If a person is found guilty of these offences, they can face up to 14 years in jail.¹

As of October 2015, a new law makes it mandatory for teachers to report suspected cases of FGM. This new requirement is now a part of our Safeguarding Policy. If teachers fail to report a suspected case, they are liable to face legal action.

In line with these new laws, Saint JohnBosco Catholic Primary School will be introducing the following measures to ensure the safety of our pupils, and to comply with the legislation.

<p>Changes to the Absence Policy</p>	<p>We will make changes to our Absence Policy to ensure that teachers can identify girls who are at risk of being taken abroad during term time.</p>
<p>Changes to the Safeguarding Policy</p>	<p>Teachers will be trained to recognise whether a girl may be at risk of FGM. According to the DfE, it is important for teachers to look out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The position of the family, and their level of integration into UK society. • Any girl with a mother or sister who has been subjected to FGM. • Any girl withdrawn from Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). • A female family elder visiting from a country of origin, as the risk of FGM may increase. • A girl confiding that she is to have a 'special procedure' or a ceremony to 'become a woman'. • A girl requesting help from a teacher if she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk. • A girl, or her family member, talking about a long holiday to her country of origin, or another country where the practice is prevalent. <p>Teachers will be trained to recognise signs that FGM may have already taken place. According to the DfE, it is important for teachers to look out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty walking, sitting or standing. • Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet. • Spending long periods of time away from a classroom during the day, with bladder or menstrual problems. • Prolonged or repeated absences from school followed by withdrawal or depression. • Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations. • Asking for help, but not being explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.