



## FGM Policy      Policy No.17A

### Policy statement

Battle Preschool has robust and rigorous safeguarding procedures 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 nursery safeguarding children and child protection policy and procedures.

Battle Preschool uses the World Health Organisation definition as written below:

*“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 where 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 as 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 includes Kenyans, Somalis, Sudanese, Sierra Leoneans, Egyptians, Nigerians and Eritreans. However, women from non-African communities that are risk of FGM include Yemeni, Kurdish, Indonesians and Pakistani women”.*

### Prevention

Our designated senior staff for safeguarding are aware of the guidance that is available through the local authority’s safeguarding children’s board in respect of FGM, and are vigilant to the risk of it being practiced.

Battle Preschool implements these procedures:

- Compulsory FGM awareness training for safeguarding leads and all staff members with direct child.
- Children identified at risk to be reported to SPOA 01323 464222 to seek advice.
- If the DSL deems that there is not enough time to wait for a response from SPOA. ie the child is on immediate danger, then the police will be called immediately.
- If it becomes apparent, (through being informed or through observing physical evidence) that the child has been subjected to FGM the DSL will call the police immediately as a crime has been committed.
- The DSL will also send a SOR (statement of referral) through to SPOA via secure email.
- The DSL will work with police and follow any protocols and procedures necessary.
- FGM discussion by safeguarding lead with parents of children from practising communities who are at risk.
- Promotion and awareness of FGM in our Preschool i.e through newsletters and hand-outs.



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### Indications that FGM has taken place

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Prolonged absences from School
- Spending long periods of time away from the session with urinary or menstrual problems
- Reluctant to undergo medical examinations
- Noticeable changes in behaviour
- Soreness, infection or unusual presence
- 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
- In conversation, a child may talk about FGM
- A child may express anxiety about a 'special' ceremony
- The child may talk or have anxiety about forthcoming holidays to their country of origin

### Reporting a concern

Since 31 October 2015 there has been a mandatory reporting duty which requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s to the police. The duty applies to all regulated professionals (as defined in section 5B(2)(a), (11) and (12) of the 2003 Act) working within healthcare or social care, and teachers. It therefore covers: healthcare professionals regulated by a body which is overseen by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (with the exception of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland). This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, and, in England, social workers; teachers; and social care workers in Wales. The duty applies where, in the course of their professional duties, the professional either:

- is informed by the girl that an act of FGM has been carried out on her; or
- observes physical signs which appear to show an act of FGM has been carried out and has no reason to believe that the act was necessary for the girl's physical or mental health or for purposes connected with labour or birth.

Where a professional discovers such a case, they must make a report to the police

### Further guidance

Keeping children safe in education, DfE (see pages 14-15)

Multi-agency practice guidelines: FGM, Home Office, DfE (see pages 8, 16, 17 and 42)

Free online training from the Home Office <https://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/>

<b>This policy was adopted at a trustees meeting of</b>	<b>Battle Pre-School Playgroup</b>
<b>Held on</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>
<b>Minute Reference</b>	<b>Sept24 Item 10</b>
<b>Date to be reviewed</b>	<b>September 2026</b>



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