

**Norman Court Montessori CIC
Female Genital Mutilation Policy**

Statutory Guidance

Local Safeguarding Children's Board website www.4lscb.org.uk

Services for Young Children Website www.hants.gov.uk/childcare

Keeping Children Safe in Education:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_s
afe_in_education.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf)

Statutory Framework for EYFS (2017):

http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2017/03/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 – OFSTED

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (2015):

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you
_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)

Policy

Norman Court Montessori CIC 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 Norman Court Montessori CIC safeguarding policy. Norman Court Montessori CIC 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 whether for cultural or nontherapeutic reasons.”

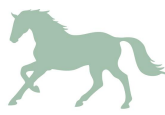
The UK Government has written advice and guidance on FGM that states; “FGM is considered child abuse in the UK and a grave violation of the human rights of girls and women. In all circumstances where FGM is practised on a child it is a violation of the child's right to life, their right to their bodily 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 that are at risk of FGM include Yemeni, Kurdish, Indonesian and Pakistani women.”

Norman Court Montessori CIC takes proactive action with regards to child protection. Norman Court employees are trained to recognise indicators that a child may be at risk and trained to follow appropriate procedures as outlined below.

Indications that a child is at risk of FGM

- The family comes from a community that is known to practice FGM.
- In conversation a child may talk about FGM.



NORMAN COURT

- 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(s)/Guardian(s) may comment on overseas travel.
- 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

Indications that FGM has taken place

- Prolonged absence with noticeable behaviour change – especially after a return from holiday.
- Spending long periods of time away from the sessions during the day. e.g. extended toilet breaks.

Procedures

Norman Court Montessori CIC takes proactive action to protect and prevent girls being forced to undertake FGM.

- A robust attendance policy that identifies any unexplained absence.
- FGM training for the Designated Safeguarding Lead and staff team.

If a member of staff suspect that a child is a victim of FGM they are responsible to raise the concern with the Norman Court Montessori CIC Designated Safeguarding Team who will provide advice.

All Safeguarding concerns must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Practitioners who will decide on an appropriate course of action. Safeguarding procedures will follow and referrals will be made in line with the Norman Court Montessori CIC Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.