



Cledford  
Primary School  
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Cledford Primary School

# Staying Safe Guide

## Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision, cutting or Sunna.

Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However FGM is child abuse; it's dangerous, it is a criminal offence and is illegal in the UK. It's also illegal to take a British national or permanent resident abroad for FGM or to help someone trying to do this.

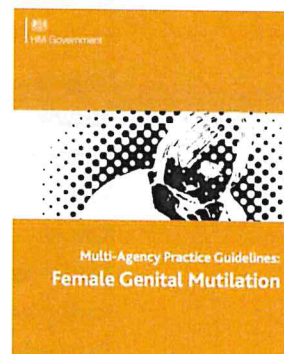
This procedure often takes place in the summer, as the recovery period after FGM can be 6 to 9 weeks. Educational settings should be alert to the possibility of FGM as a reason why a girl in a high-risk group is absent from the school or college where the family request an 'authorised absence' for just before or just after the summer break.



There are 28 countries in Africa, and also parts of the Middle East and Asia where FGM is commonly practiced.

### Possible signs that FGM is about to take place:

- When a female family elder is around, particularly when she is visiting from a country of origin.
- Reference to FGM in conversation e.g. a girl may tell other children about it.
- A girl may confide that she is to have a 'special procedure' or to attend a special occasion to 'become a woman'.
- A girl may request help from a teacher or another adult if she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk.
- Parents state that they or a relative will take the child out of the country for a prolonged period.
- A girl may talk about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent.
- Parents seeking to withdraw their children from learning about FGM.
- A girl being withdrawn from PSHE or from learning about FGM (parents may wish to keep her uninformed about her body and rights)



Key guidance document *Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines by HM Government 2014*

If you have any concerns, or need some advice, speak to your Designated Safeguarding Lead or contact ChECS on 0300 123 5012. Alternatively, professionals can request copies of the government's leaflets, posters and latest DVD about FGM from: [FGMEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FGMEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

### Possible signs that FGM has taken place:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet possibly with bladder or menstrual problems
- Unusual/a noticeable change in behaviour after a lengthy absence
- Reluctance to undergo normal medical examinations
- Asking for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.
- Prolonged absences/ persistent unexplained absence from school/college;
- Seek to be excused from physical exercise without the support of their GP
- Child not allowed to attend extra-curricular activities

It is unlikely that the term ‘female genital mutilation’ will be used by those involved in this type of abuse. This list below highlights some of the alternative phrases that may be used.

## TERMS USED FOR FGM IN OTHER LANGUAGES

Country	Term used for FGM	Language
CHAD – the Ngama Sara subgroup	Bagne	
GAMBIA	Gadja	
	Niaka	Mandinka
	Kuyungo	Mandinka
GUINEA-BISSAU	Musolula Karoola	Mandinka
	Fanadu di Mindjer	Kriolu
EGYPT	Thara	Arabic
	Khitan	Arabic
	Khifad	Arabic
ETHIOPIA	Megrez	Amharic
	Absum	Harrari
ERITREA	Mekhnishab	Tigreigna
IRAN	Xatna	Farsi
KENYA	Kutairi	Swahili
	Kutairi was ichana	Swahili
NIGERIA	Ibi/Ugwu	Igbo
	Didabe fun omobirin/ ila kiko fun omobirin	Yoruba
SIERRA LEONE	Sunna	Soussou
	Bondo	Temenee
	Bondo/sonde	Mendee
	Bondo	Mandinka
	Bondo	Limba
SOMALIA	Gudiniin	Somali
	Halalays	Somali
	Qodiin	Somali
SUDAN	Khifad	Arabic
	Tahoor	Arabic
TURKEY	Kadin Sunneti	Turkish



Taken from page 50, Appendix D

For further help and advice:

Professionals can request copies of the government’s leaflets, posters and latest DVD about FGM from:

[FGMEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FGMEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

NSPCC: FGM helpline [0800 028 3550](tel:0800 028 3550)

