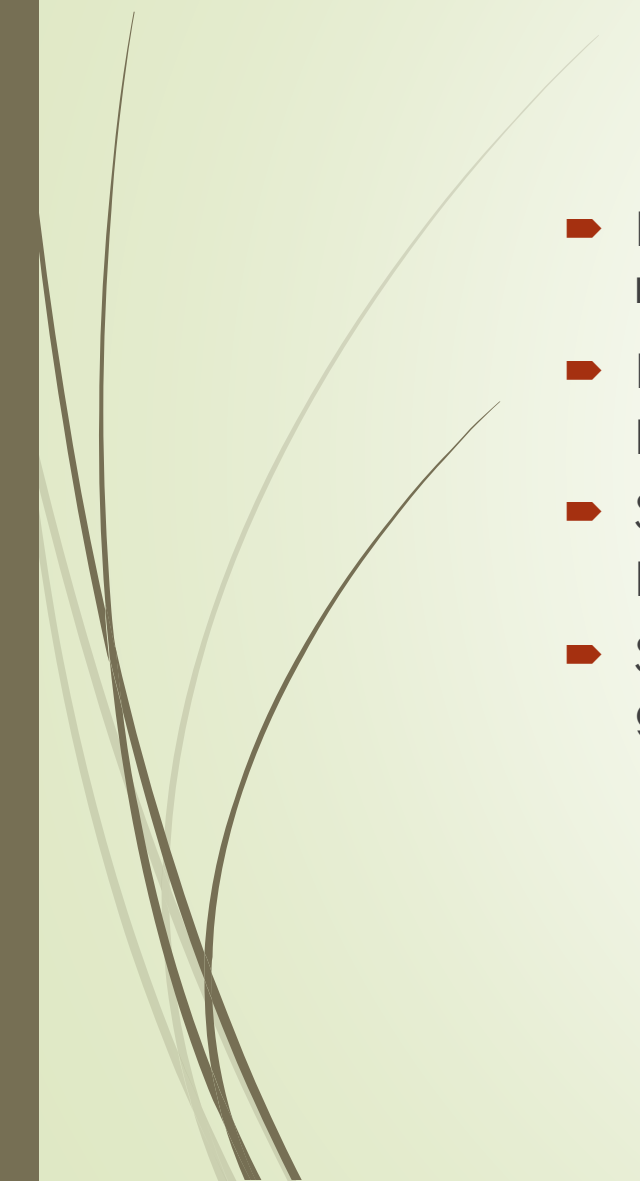




Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Parent Consultation



What is FGM?

- ▶ FGM is the mutilation of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is sometimes known as female circumcision or 'sunna'.
 - ▶ Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is child abuse and an extremely harmful practice with devastating health consequences for girls and women.
 - ▶ Some girls die from blood loss or infection as a direct result of the procedure.
 - ▶ Some women who have undergone FGM are also likely to find it difficult to give birth and many also suffer from long term psychological trauma.
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FGM and The Law

- FGM is a serious criminal offence in the UK with a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison for anyone found guilty.
- Parents and/or carers may also be guilty of an offence if they fail to protect a child from FGM being carried out and can face a maximum of 7 years in prison, a fine or both.
- Even if someone is taken overseas to undergo FGM, it is still a crime in the UK if the mutilation is done by a UK national or a UK resident.
- It is also a crime if a UK national or resident assists or gets a non-UK national or resident to carry out FGM overseas on a UK national or resident.
- And if FGM is committed against a girl under the age of 16, each person who is responsible for the girl at the relevant time is guilty of an offence.



Life to the Full Programme and Statutory Curriculum Requirements

The Life to the Full programme fully meets the government statutory Relationships and Health Education (RHE) guidance for primary schools, which amongst other things, states that by the end of primary school children should learn:

- ▶ about the concept of privacy and the implications of it for both children and adults;
- ▶ including that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe.
- ▶ that each person's body belongs to them, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe physical, and other, contact.
- ▶ how to recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult.
- ▶ how to ask for advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard.
- ▶ how to report concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.
- ▶ where to get advice e.g. family, school and/or other sources.



FGM and Primary Schools

- ▶ The duty to teach about FGM is not statutory for primary schools, it can optionally be applied following consultation with parents and governors.

The National FGM Centre advises that girls are at most risk at primary school age, and therefore recommends that primary schools also teach about FGM where possible.




What does 'Life to the Full' primary teach about FGM

The Life to the Full programme offers schools the opportunity to include teaching on FGM at KS1, LKS2 and UKS2, as part of Unit 4: Keeping Safe which is part of Module 2: Created to Love Others.



How FGM teaching feeds into the 'Life to the Full' programme

EYFS – My Body My Rules

- ▶ Does not mention FGM but introduces the children to the idea of bodily privacy (including the NSPCC PANTS message that privates are private).
 - ▶ Includes the importance of talking to their 'special people' if anything troubles them.
 - ▶ This is all underpinned by religious teaching that we are created and loved by God.
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KS1 – Physical Contact

- Incorporates the PANTS resources from the NSPCC to teach children that:
- **P**rivates are private
- **A**lways remember your body belongs to you
- **N**o means no
- **T**alk about secrets that upset you
- **S**peak up, someone can help



KS1 – Physical Contact

- ▶ Children discuss the way different kinds of touch can make them feel.
- ▶ They gain a basic understanding of when touch is appropriate or inappropriate
- ▶ The importance of talking to trusted adults about anything concerning them.
- ▶ FGM is not named explicitly, but described in the following terms:
‘...in some cultures people want to harm girls’ private parts, and that is not OK; privates are private and should stay the same as when a girl was born.’
- ▶ The whole session is framed in the core belief that our bodies are made by God and given to us as wonderful gifts that deserve the respect of ourselves and others.



LKS2 – Safe in My Body

- ▶ Builds on KS1 learning to consider more deeply what physical contact is appropriate and inappropriate.
- ▶ Children are introduced to the term ‘abuse’ and discuss different kinds of abuse, including sexual abuse, here referred to as ‘abuse of private parts’.
- ▶ Children are invited to think of trusted adults that they can talk to about any issues they may face.

LKS2 – Safe in My Body

There is another kind of VERY SERIOUS abuse of a child's private parts...

FGM
ILLEGAL



NSPCC
'FGM help'

IN AN EMERGENCY:
📞 999

VULVA



LKS2 – Safe in My Body

FGM Teaching Content

- ▶ **FGM is when the outside part of a girl's genitalia (private parts) are changed or harmed**, not because the girl is ill and needs medical treatment, but for other reasons
- ▶ FGM is practised in at least 28 countries in Africa, parts of the Middle East and Asia. Some people from those countries continue to practice FGM among their communities when they come to the UK to live.
- ▶ These communities believe that cutting or changing and harming a girl's genitalia will uphold family honour, preserve tradition or ensure a girl's cleanliness and readiness for marriage.
- ▶ These are myths; **FGM can have serious consequences for a woman's health and in some instances can lead to death.** It is not a religious requirement and world religious leaders have spoken out against it.



LKS2 – Safe in My Body

FGM Teaching Content

- ▶ Female bodies change during puberty, and some of these changes affect the vulva (a girl's external genitalia), but otherwise **the vulva needs to stay the same as when a girl was born** – no one else should change it for them, unless for medical reasons that are very clearly explained by a doctor in the UK.
- ▶ **FGM is considered to be child abuse in the UK and it is illegal (not allowed).** Anyone who involved in carrying out FGM faces up to 14 years in prison, and anyone found guilty of failing to protect a girl from FGM faces up to 7 years in prison.
- ▶ If anyone is worried about FGM they should never stay silent – there are lots of support services available. Any teacher, or trusted adults in or out of school can help. **Childline, run by the NSPCC, also has a free telephone help line** for anyone in the UK worried about FGM happening to them or someone they know, which can be found by searching 'FGM help'.
- ▶ **In an emergency situation, 999 should always be called.** It's always OK to seek support – there will always be someone who can help.

The session finishes by discussing appropriate touch that makes us feel positive, and a reflection on how much God loves us and wants us to stay safe.



UKS2 – Types of Abuse

- ▶ Through 4 fictional stories this session further deepens awareness of different kinds of abuse, including sexual (which in LKS2 was described as 'abuse of private parts').
- ▶ Children are introduced to the concept of rights (including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and how abuse violates their rights.
- ▶ They are asked to think of trusted adults that they can talk to about any issues they may face.

UKS2 – Types of Abuse

- There is also a section which explains that children have the right to be safe and to be in control of their bodies, so that they need to be aware of a practice which violates these rights: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- Children watch a film which goes beyond LKS2 learning by answering the following questions:
 - What is FGM?
 - How does FGM affect health?
 - Who is at risk?
 - Why does it happen?
 - How are people trying to stop it?
 - Who can I tell?
- The session finishes by discussing how, although bad things happen, that is not God's plan for us: He designed us, made us, loves us and wants us to love others too.