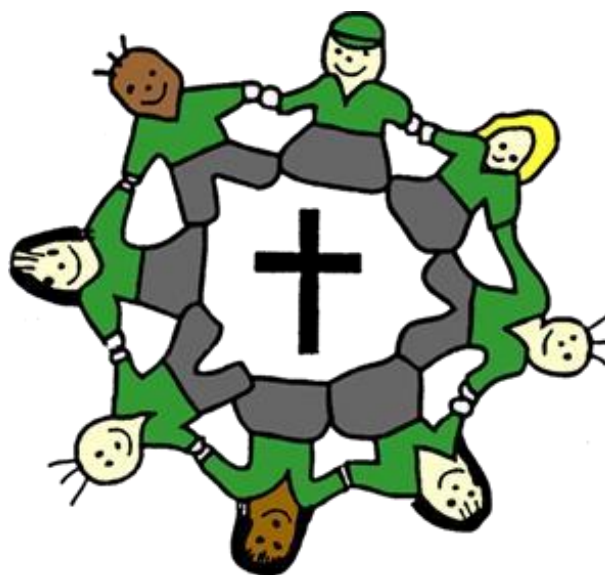


# **St Martin's CE Primary School**



## **Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation & Honour Based Violence Policy**

**Reviewed and Adopted by the Governing Body: October 2022**  
**Review date October 2024**

## St. Martin's CE Primary School

This policy relates to the following legislation:

- ? Children Act 2004
- ? Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- ? Mental Health Act 2007
- ? Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- ? Equality Act 2010
- ? Mental Health (Discrimination) Act 2013
- ? Special Educational Needs and Disability (Detained Persons) Regulations 2015
- ? Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation April 2014
- ? Child Sexual Exploitation - definition and guide for practitioners (DfE 2017)

Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges (DfE 2020)

Working together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children (2018)

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and take account of the information contained in the DfE documents 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018' and 'Keep Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges Sept 2018' as the safety and protection of children is of paramount importance to everyone in this school.

### **Rationale**

We have the responsibility to observe the educational, social, behavioural, physical and emotional welfare of all pupils. Therefore, it is our duty to be alert to and to ensure that we act immediately if we believe someone is displaying any of the physical, behavioural or psychological warning signs that may lead to CSE, FGM or HBV as defined below.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

Child sexual exploitation is a type of sexual abuse in which children or young persons under the age of 18 are sexually exploited for money, power or status and is best defined as: involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

### **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

FGM is a criminal offence – it is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls particularly from North African Countries, and therefore should be treated as such. It is illegal in England and Wales to allow girls to undergo this practice, which involves the 'partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for

nonmedical reasons'. Cases should be dealt with as part of existing structures, policies and procedures on child protection and adult safeguarding. There are, however, particular characteristics of FGM that front-line professionals should be aware of to ensure that they can provide appropriate protection and support to those affected.

### **Honour Based Violence (HBV)**

Honour based violence (HBV) and abuse can take many forms, e.g. threatening behaviour, assault, rape, kidnap, abduction, forced abortion, threats to kill and false imprisonment committed due to so called 'honour'. We are aware that 'so-called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing'.

### **PURPOSE**

- To safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people.
- To teach pupils how they can protect themselves from sexual exploitation by them making positive choices and informed decisions in their relationships.
- To create a school learning environment that promotes healthy friendships and good relationships between pupils and school personnel so that pupils feel confident enough to disclose any concerns they may have.
- To be observe the educational, social, behavioural, physical and emotional welfare of all pupils.
- To raise awareness of the signs Child Sexual Exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and Honour Based Violence across the organisation.

### **BROAD GUIDELINES**

The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team will:

- assess the risk of children being drawn into child exploitation;
- take the lead in dealing with child protection issues and in deciding what steps should be taken;
- raise awareness that female genital mutilation (FGM) affects girls particularly from north African countries and it is illegal to allow girls to undergo this practice either in this country or abroad;
- raise awareness of the need to protect pupils who might be vulnerable to FGM, HBV and CSE and ensure that all concerns regarding FGM, HBV and CSE are reported and acted upon ;
- create a safe and stimulating learning environment where pupils feel safe and confident to fully participate in lessons and other learning activities;
- ensure the pastoral care worker / parental liaison works closely with parents and promotes preventative parenting and practice with regards to CSE, FGM and HBV;
- work with parents to prevent pupils being exploited or put at risk;
- work in close partnership with the LSCB;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;

- provide guidance, support and training to all staff and governors so that they are well informed about self-harm.

School staff will:

- recognise that child protection is their main responsibility;
- treat children's welfare with the utmost importance and sensitivity;
- develop pupils self-confidence and self-esteem;
- attend any available awareness training that deals with the risk factors, signs and indicators of child CSE, FGM and HBV;
- teach a curriculum that raises awareness of:
  - ✓ the importance of healthy relationships and friendships ✓ appropriate touch
  - ✓ keeping safe (including 'online' safety)
  - ✓ recognising and assessing risk
  - ✓ knowing how and where to get help when needed
- in Upper Key Stage 2, teach pupils about the risk of CSE and FGM;
- be alert at all times to the signs of abuse namely physical, emotional, sexual or neglect;
- know how to report any suspected case of harm or abuse;
- report any concerns that they have about children who are at risk of FGM, CSE and HBV;
- establish a school and classroom environment where children feel safe to talk and where school personnel listen to children;
- provide opportunities through the curriculum to address relevant issues and topics in order to promote their safety and well-being;
- encourage pupils to assess risks to themselves;
- report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Assistant Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- follow the school safeguarding policy relayed to raising concerns and child disclosures;
- not promise confidentiality to any child but always act in the interests of a child;
- receive support and counselling if they feel distressed from being involved with a case or incident;
- ensure that they conduct themselves correctly at all times and do not put themselves at risk; • take note of the following signs of FGM
  - Difficulty walking, standing or sitting.
  - Spending longer in the bathroom or toilet.
  - Appearing withdrawn, anxious or depressed.
  - Displaying unusual behaviour after an absence from school or college.
  - Being particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations.
  - Asking for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.

## **CONCLUSION**

Through the effective implementation of this policy, we will have a school community that is fully aware of the risks that the children are exposed to and have procedures in place for dealing with child exploitation, female genital mutilation and honour based violence. As a result, the safety of all children will be paramount.

The practical application of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises by the Senior Leadership Team.

**Linked Policies**

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Behaviour

Extremism and Radicalisation

E-safety , Acceptable Use and Data Protection