



Park and Parkwall Primary Federation



Working together to empower children to become aspirational, global citizens

Park Headteacher: Mr P Rowsell

Hollow Road
Kingswood
Bristol BS15 9TP
Tel: 01454 866536
Email: parkprimary@sgmail.org.uk

Parkwall Headteacher: Mrs J Waller

Earlstone Crescent
Cadbury Heath
Bristol BS30 8AA
Tel: 01454 867114
Email: parkwallprimary@sgmail.org.uk

Parkwall Primary School – Safeguarding Bulletin

Spotlight on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

At Park Primary, safeguarding is our highest priority. This month's focus is on **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** – a serious child protection issue that all parents and carers should be aware of.

What is FGM?

FGM involves the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons.

- It is **illegal in the UK**.
- It is recognised internationally as a **serious form of child abuse and violence against girls and women**.
- It has **no health benefits** and can cause long-term physical and emotional harm.

The Law

- Performing FGM, arranging for it to be done, or taking a child abroad for FGM is against the law in the UK.
- Anyone found guilty can face up to **14 years in prison**.
- Teachers, health professionals, and social workers are legally required to report known cases of FGM in under 18s.

Signs a Child May Be at Risk

Parents and carers should be alert to possible indicators, such as:

- Talking about “a special procedure” or “becoming a woman”
- A family holiday planned to a country where FGM is common

- Withdrawal from lessons, particularly **PE or swimming**
 - Difficulty walking, standing, or sitting comfortably
 - Unexplained absence from school, followed by long breaks
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Impact of FGM on Children

FGM can cause:

- Severe pain and bleeding
 - Problems with urination and menstruation
 - Infections and long-term health complications
 - Emotional and psychological trauma
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How We Safeguard at Parkwall Primary

- All staff are trained to recognise signs of FGM and act quickly
 - We teach children about **respect, safety, and body autonomy** as part of our curriculum
 - We work closely with South Gloucestershire safeguarding partners to protect children at risk
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What You Can Do

- If you are worried that a child is at risk of FGM, please speak to the school's **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): J Waller** parkwallprimary@sgmail.org.uk **Tell: 01454 867114**
 - You can also contact:
 - **South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership:** 01454866000
 - **NSPCC FGM Helpline** (free, anonymous, 24/7): 0800 028 3550
 - **Police:** Call 999 if a child is in immediate danger
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✓ By working together, we can protect our children and ensure every girl grows up safe, healthy, and respected.

Kind Regards

