

Safeguarding at More House

Parent Bulletin March 2017

FGM, CSE, Forced Marriage, and Prevent

At More House the safety and wellbeing of our pupils is at the centre of everything that we do. As part of our safeguarding remit we have a duty to raise awareness amongst the pupil and parent body of a number of issues which include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), and Forced Marriage. We also have a duty, set out in the government's Prevent Strategy, to protect our pupils from radicalisation and extremism. Girls are made aware of these issues through assemblies, the PSHE programme, guest speakers, and events. We ensure that they are well informed about these difficult issues so that they can recognise if it happens to them or those around them. We have collected information from the NSPCC and Home Office website to provide a brief summary of these issues and also provided details of where you can get help and further information. If you do have any concerns about girls within our school community please do not hesitate to contact Mr Keeley (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Miss Brown (deputy DSL).

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 or cutting.

Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However, FGM is child abuse. It is dangerous and a criminal offence. There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It does not enhance fertility and it does not make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

Under the 2003 Act it is an offence for any person in England, Wales or Northern Ireland (regardless of their nationality or residence status) to perform FGM or to assist a girl to carry out FGM on herself.

Call the FGM helpline if you're worried a child is at risk of, or has had, FGM. It is free, anonymous and available 24 hours a day.

Telephone: 0800 028 3550

Email: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

CSE

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money or affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them.

Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed online. Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs.

If you would like further advice on CSE please contact us or the NSPCC helpline.

Telephone: 0808 800 5000

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Forced Marriage

We should all have the right to choose who we marry, when we get married or even if we marry at all. Forced marriage is when there is a physical pressure to marry (eg threats, physical violence or sexual violence) or emotional and psychological pressure (eg if you are made to feel like you are bringing shame on your family). Forced marriage is illegal in England and Wales. This includes:

- taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place)
- marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they are pressured to or not)

Contact the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) if you are trying to stop a forced marriage or you need help leaving a marriage you have been forced into.

Telephone: 020 7008 0151

From overseas: +44 (0)20 7008 0151

Email: fmu@fco.gov.uk

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Out of hours: 020 7008 1500 (ask for the Global Response Centre)

