



## **British Values, The Prevent Duty, FGM & County Lines**

### **Links to Key Legislation and guidance:**

- Revised Prevent Duty guidance: England & Wales, Home office 2021
- Children's act 1989 & 2004
- Convention of the rights of the child, UNICEF, 1989
- Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage DfE 2021
- Working Together to Safeguard Children DfE 2018
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

### **Policy Statement**

Busy Bees is committed to keeping our children safe. We ensure we keep up to date with relevant information surrounding counter terrorism, female genital mutilation, and county lines.

Busy Bees has a duty to keep our children safe and promote their welfare. We are keen to provide the foundations to encourage our children to become good citizens and we will challenge negative behaviours from all, and therefore we promote British Values within our setting with the aim to achieve this.

Below details how we promote each British Value, the signs and symptoms to look out for that may be linked with criminal activity and guidance for what to do should we suspect any of our children or families are subject to any criminal activity.

## **British Values**

Busy Bees is committed to promoting British values, democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance. We will work in partnership with Herefordshire Children's Safeguarding Board to deliver this.

We want our children to be independent learners so they can build relationships and make their own choices.

Below are example of how Busy Bees sets the foundation for our children to grow into good citizens.

### **Democracy: making decisions together**

- We share ideas and experiences
- Children choose their own activities and adults plan around the children's interests.
- We share resources between our classrooms.
- Parents are valued partners of Busy Bees.
- Questions are valued.

### **Rule of Law: Understanding rules matter, promoting personal, social and emotional development**

- We expect all our children to follow simple rules with support and guidance from adults.
- We encourage our children to distinguish between right and wrong.
- We explain why we have rules, to keep us safe and provide equality for all.
- Turn taking, being kind and sharing are promoted at all times.
- Our policies and procedures ensure we have clear expectations and consistency throughout the setting.

### **Individual Liberty: freedom for all focus on self-confidence, self-awareness and people and communities.**

- Children can choose their own activities.

- During group times children are encouraged to share their experiences, opinions and feelings.
- Children are encouraged to have a go at new activities.
- We celebrate a variety of cultural holidays and festivals.
- Children are encouraged to be independent and make choices.

**Mutual respect and Tolerance: treat others as you want to be treated.**

- We promote an ethos of inclusivity, we discuss different views, culture and religions during group times, activities and topics.
- We explain the importance of and encourage respect of others opinions.
- We would challenge any stereotypes from staff, parents or children, promoting diverse attitudes at all times.
- We ensure our environment and activities reflect and value diversity of children's experiences.
- We ensure all staff are good role models, through respecting one another and being kind and considerate.

**What is not acceptable by Busy Bees staff and our families:**

- actively promoting intolerance of other faiths, cultures and races
- failure to challenge gender stereotypes
- isolating children from their wider community
- failure to challenge behaviours that are not in line with our British Values.

## **The Prevent Duty**

### **What is The Prevent Duty?**

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 registered early years providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, it is to prevent people being drawn into terrorism, protecting children from the risk of radicalisation (changing the child's beliefs and views) and causing harm to others. This is known as the Prevent Duty.

### **Signs and Symptoms**

- Behaviour changes
- Absences
- Language change or inappropriate language
- Sudden change of beliefs or religion
- May have new religious dietary requirements
- Change of social interactions and appearance
- Being overly physical with other children
- Stereotypical views & very strong opinions

### **What to do if we suspect this has happened**

- Busy Bees provides all staff with channel training which identifies how children may become at risk.
- We cover safeguarding at all our staff meetings where the prevent duty and how we implement it will be discussed regularly.
- In the event we felt a child was at risk, our safeguarding policies would be followed.
- There may be no usual pattern to a child who may be at risk so we would record any changes to a child's physical and emotional appearance, changes to their behaviour and concerns are always discussed with management and parents.
- We would phone the Prevent Advice Line and possibly the MASH team for advice, and telephone the police if we felt the child was at immediate risk.

**National Police Prevent Advice: 0800011376**

## FGM & Breast Ironing

### What is FGM & Breast Ironing?

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.

Breast ironing is the pounding and massaging of a pubescent girls breasts using hard or heated objects

Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM or breast ironing. However, both in the UK are considered child abuse.

**It's dangerous and a criminal offence.**

There are no medical reasons to carry out either and with FGM it doesn't enhance fertility and it doesn't make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

### Signs and symptoms

- A long holiday abroad or going 'home' to visit family
- A relative or cutter visiting from abroad
- a special occasion or ceremony to 'become a woman' or get ready for marriage
- May have difficulty walking, standing or sitting
- May have difficulty lifting arms.
- Spend longer in the bathroom or toilet
- Appear withdrawn, anxious or depressed
- Have unusual behaviour after an absence from school or college
- Be particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations

- ask for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.

### **What to do if we suspect this has happened?**

- Speak to Busy Bees Designated Safeguard Officer
- Ring NSPCC FGM helpline for advice, 0800 028 3550
- Speak to the parent
- Contact police if the child is at immediate risk
- Contact LA safeguarding team, up to date contact details always kept online.
- Notify Ofsted within 14 days.

## **County Lines & Hazing**

### **What is county lines?**

Criminal exploitation is also known as 'county lines' and is when gangs and organised crime networks exploit children to sell drugs. Often these children are made to travel across counties, and they use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply drugs.

### **What is Hazing?**

Hazing is a form of an initiation ceremony, the act of making someone do something to enrol them into a new friendship group.

### **Possible signs of criminal exploitation (most likely seen within older siblings or families of Busy Bees children):**

- Returning home late, staying out all night or going missing
- Being found in areas away from home
- Increasing drug use, or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them
- Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going
- Unexplained absences from school, college, training or work
- Unexplained money, phone(s), clothes or jewellery
- Increasingly disruptive or aggressive behaviour
- Using sexual, drug-related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know
- Coming home with injuries or looking particularly dishevelled

### **What Busy Bees employees are expected to do if concerned criminal exploitation is occurring within the family:**

- Speak to Busy Bees Designated Safeguard Officer
- Phone MASH team to obtain guidance and follow their advice, 01432 260800
- If there is immediate risk to the child or family contact the police immediately.
- Contact Ofsted within 14 days of incident.
- Offer link to parents/ carer for advice

[https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/worried\\_about\\_your\\_child\\_being\\_criminally\\_exploited\\_the\\_children\\_s\\_society.pdf](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/worried_about_your_child_being_criminally_exploited_the_children_s_society.pdf)

**Please refer to Child protection and Safeguarding policy for more useful contact numbers.**