Domestic Abuse, Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage policy

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| EYFS: 3.1, 3.8 |

This policy should be read alongside our Safeguarding policy:

* Safeguarding Children Child Protection Policy
* Data Protection and Confidentiality
* GDPR Privacy Notice.

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

*‘any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological; physical; sexual; financial; and emotional’.*

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone regardless of gender, age, social background, religion, sexuality or ethnicity, and domestic abuse can happen at any stage in a relationship.

We aim to develop staff knowledge of recognising the signs and symptoms of domestic abuse. These signs may include:

* Changes in behaviour: for example, becoming very quiet, anxious, frightened, tearful, aggressive, distracted, depressed etc.
* Visible bruising or single, or repeated, injury with unlikely explanations
* Change in the manner of dress: for example, clothes that do not suit the climate which may be used to hide injuries
* Partner or ex-partner stalking employee/parent in or around the workplace; this may include excessive phone calls or messages
* Partner or ex-partner exerting an unusual amount of control or demands over work schedule
* Frequent lateness or absence from work.

All children can witness and be adversely affected by domestic abuse in the context of their home life where domestic abuse occurs between family members. Exposure to domestic abuse and/or violence can have a serious, long lasting emotional and psychological impact on children.

Signs that children may have witnessed domestic abuse include:

* Anxiety
* Regressive behaviours
* Constant or regular sickness, such as colds or headaches
* Difficulties with concentration
* Emotional and behavioural difficulties
* Withdrawal
* Low self-esteem.

We will raise awareness of domestic abuse within our setting by:

* Ensuring all staff can identify the signs and symptoms of domestic abuse and know how to report concerns
* Sharing information with external organisations that can offer support with incidents of domestic abuse. The information will be displayed in visible spaces within the setting
* Providing all stakeholders with the telephone number for the free 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline ( 0808 2000 247)
* Sharing our domestic abuse policy and Child Protection and Safeguarding policies with all stakeholders.

If we are concerned that domestic abuse is happening within a home and a child is at risk, we will follow our safeguarding policies’ reporting procedures (see Safeguarding Children/Child Protection policy).

Where incidents of domestic abuse are shared by an employee or parent/carer, we will respect confidentiality at all times and not share information without their permission. However, we will share this information, without permission, in cases of child protection or where we believe there is an immediate risk of serious harm to the person involved.

**Honour based abuse**

Honour based abuse (HBA) can be described as ‘a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour’; such as being held against their will, sexual or psychological abuse, threats of violence, assault or forced marriage.

Such abuse can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. It is a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual abuse. There is no honour or justification for abusing the human rights of others.

We aim to develop staff knowledge of recognising the signs and symptoms of HBA. These signs may include:

* Changes in how they dress or act, they may stop wearing ‘western’ clothing or make-up
* Visible injuries, or repeated injury, with unlikely explanations.
* Signs of depression, anxiety or self-harm
* Frequent absences
* Restrictions on friends or attending events.

We will raise awareness of domestic abuse within our setting by:

* Sharing information with external organisations that can offer support with incidents of HBA. The information will be displayed in visible spaces within the setting
* Sharing our HBA, child protection and safeguarding policies with all stakeholders.

Where incidents of HBA are shared by an employee or parent/carer, we will respect confidentiality at all times and not share information without their permission. However, we will share this information without permission in cases of child protection, or where we believe there is an immediate risk of serious harm to the person involved.

**Honour based violence**

Honour based violence is the term used to describe murders in the name of so-called honour, sometimes called 'honour killings'. These are murders in which predominantly women are killed for perceived immoral behaviour, which is deemed to have breached the honour code of a family or community, causing shame. The Metropolitan Police definition of so-called honour-based violence is: 'a crime or incident, which has or may been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community'

These acts can include physical assaults, abduction and murder, which are carried out in the name of family honour. A child who is at risk of honour based violence is **at significant risk** of physical harm (including being murdered) and/or neglect and may also suffer significant emotional harm through the threat of violence or witnessing violence directed towards a sibling or other family member. Murders in the name of ‘so-called honour’ are often the culmination of a series of events over a period of time and are planned. There tends to be a degree of premeditation, family conspiracy and a belief that the victim deserved to die.

Families may feel shame long after the incident that brought about dishonor occurred, and therefore the risk of harm to a child can persist. This means that the young person’s new boy/girlfriend, baby (if

pregnancy caused the family to feel ‘shame’), associates or siblings may be at risk of harm.

These acts are illegal and are an offence under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004).

 More information:

The Metropolitan Police honour based violence website:

<http://safe.met.police.uk/crimes_of_honour/get_the_facts.html> Karma Nirvana: <http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/>

Refuge: [https://www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/forms-of-violence-and-abuse/honour-based-](https://www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/forms-of-violence-and-abuse/honour-based-violence/) [violence/](https://www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/forms-of-violence-and-abuse/honour-based-violence/)

Kingston and Richmond LSCB Website: [http://kingstonandrichmondlscb.org.uk/practitioners/domestic-violence-and-abuse-131/honour-](http://kingstonandrichmondlscb.org.uk/practitioners/domestic-violence-and-abuse-131/honour-based-violence-137.php) [based-violence-137.php](http://kingstonandrichmondlscb.org.uk/practitioners/domestic-violence-and-abuse-131/honour-based-violence-137.php)

**Forced Marriage**

A forced marriage is a marriage that takes place without the consent of one or both spouses and duress is involved. This is **now a criminal offence in England and Wales**. This could include both physical pressure (threats or violence) or emotional pressure to marry.

A forced marriage is defined as ‘a marriage in which one, or both spouses, do not consent to the marriage but are coerced into it. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. In the cases of some vulnerable adults who lack the capacity to consent, coercion is not required for a marriage to be forced’.

In some cases, people may be taken abroad without knowing that they are to be married. When they arrive in the country their passports may be taken by their family to try and stop them returning home. Forced marriage involving a young person under the age of 18 is a child protection issue as the child is at risk of significant harm through physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Situations where a child fears being forced into marriage have similarities with both domestic violence and honour based violence and forced marriage falls under the definition of domestic violence.

Forced marriage may involve the child being taken out of the country (trafficked) for the ceremony, is likely to involve non-consensual and/or underage sex, and refusal to go through with a forced marriage has sometimes been linked to so-called 'honour killing'.

 More information:

Forced Marriage Unit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage>

ChildLine: [https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/crime-law/forced-](https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/crime-law/forced-marriage/) [marriage/](https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/crime-law/forced-marriage/)

Kingston and Richmond LSCB Website: [http://kingstonandrichmondlscb.org.uk/practitioners/domestic-violence-and-abuse-131/forced-](http://kingstonandrichmondlscb.org.uk/practitioners/domestic-violence-and-abuse-131/forced-marriage-136.php) [marriage-136.php](http://kingstonandrichmondlscb.org.uk/practitioners/domestic-violence-and-abuse-131/forced-marriage-136.php)

If we suspect or receive information about a forced marriage being planned then we will follow our safeguarding reporting procedures. If the person concerned is under the age of 18 years then we will report the incident to the children’s social care team.

If we believe a person is in imminent danger of being forced into a marriage we may contact the Police and the Governments Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) on 020 7008 0151.

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| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** | **Date for review** |
| *March 2022* | *Monika Suzanska* | *March 2023* |