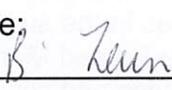




FORCED MARRIAGE POLICY

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Approved by Leadership Team on:	03.10.2019
Approved by Teaching & Personnel Standards Committee	16.10.2019
Approved by Full Governing Body: Chair: Mrs. B. Zeun Date: 06.11.2019	Signature:  _____
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In our school community we are aware arranged marriages are part of the cultural practices of some of our families. Staff at The Beaconsfield School recognise there is a clear distinction between a marriage, which the spousal parties are willing and able to give an informed consent to and a marriage which is 'forced'.
- 1.2 Staff are aware 'forced' marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not and/or cannot consent to the marriage and duress is involved.
- 1.3 Staff are alert to the signs and indicators when a young person may be involved in matrimonial arrangements, which they are unwilling and or unable to give their informed consent.
- 1.4 Staff understand the need to be aware of the cultural issues affecting children at school and are able to exercise professional curiosity regarding:
- Absence and persistent absence
 - Request for extended leave of absence and failure to return from visits to country of origin
 - Surveillance by siblings or cousins at school
 - Decline in behaviour, engagement, performance or punctuality
 - Being withdrawn from school by those with parental responsibility
 - Not allowed to attend extra- curricular activities
 - Sudden announcement of engagement to a stranger
 - Prevented from going on to further/higher education
- 1.5 Staff at The Beaconsfield School are aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they have concerns of a potential forced marriage case. This is referred to as the "one chance rule". Forced marriage is seen as a safeguarding issue at The Beaconsfield School and as such is covered during staff induction processes and revisited as part of our safeguarding training.
- 1.6 If a member of the school is concerned that someone is at risk of a forced marriage and/or honour based violence, either in the UK or abroad, they will immediately inform the designated Safeguarding Lead, Louise Gattward/Alison Wood or another Child Protection officer in their absence.
- 1.7 In light of the one chance rule, if left and there is an immediate risk to the young person, staff will contact the Police on 101 or the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151 urgently or by emailing fmufco.gov.uk

2.0 Initial steps

- 2.1 Staff are mindful to gather information to determine immediate safety needs and for further assessment to be carried out by Social Care or the Police. All cases should be dealt with seriously. There is currently no specific offence associated with forced marriage but the victim concerned may have been subjected to a number of offences (please see "Legislation" section) however forcing someone to marry became a criminal offence in England and Wales in the summer of 2014. The new law criminalises both forced marriage and a breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order. It also includes a range of measures to increase protection and support for victims and a continuing focus on prevention.
- 2.2 Initially agencies MUST:
- Ensure the victim is seen in a safe and private place.
 - See the victim on their own, or if an interpreter is needed take steps to ensure that the interpreter is an approved interpreter, or at the very least not connected with the individual or community.
 - Risk assess and discuss a safety plan, complete CAADA DASH Risk Assessment. NB in line with Buckinghamshire's Over-Arching Domestic Violence Protocol, if this is not possible school will make contact with First Response Team who have trained individuals in house for risk assessments to be undertaken.
 - Where the victim is under 18, refer to child safeguarding procedures.
 - Where the victim is over 18, refer to adult safeguarding procedures.
 - Inform the victim of their right to seek legal advice and representation.
 - Identify any potential criminal offences and refer to the police if appropriate.

- Reassure the victim, this will include ensuring that their confidentiality is maintained (it is important to remember that in these instances family, friends, and community may pose the biggest risk to the victim).
- Establish a safe way of maintaining contact with the victim.
- If the person's capacity to consent to marriage is in doubt, have their mental capacity to consent to marry assessed.
- Make a note of all the information available to you at the time, including a description of the victim and details of any known or alleged perpetrators and potential immediate risks, take photocopy of passport if available.
- Record any current contacts with other professionals, health, social services, third sector organisations, etc.
- Check with police and social care to determine whether they have records for past referrals of family members including siblings for example forced marriage of siblings, domestic abuse or missing persons within the family.
- Provide accurate information to the victim about their rights and choices and respect their wishes when possible remembering that in certain instances information may be shared without consent, for example, child protection.
- Contact a specialist in forced marriage for further advice and support.
- Consider the need for immediate protection and placement away from the family.

2.3 We will not:

- Attempt to mediate.
- Send the victim away without having taken appropriate action.
- Approach family members and/or members of the community.
- Breach confidentiality or share information inappropriately.
- Make assumptions about mental capacity.
- Make assumptions about communication requirements.
- Use relatives, friends, community leaders and neighbours as interpreters or translators.

2.4 If there are concerns that a child may be at risk of significant harm, a referral to the First Response Team will be made (0845 4600001), by telephone without delay. Where the child concerned already has an allocated social worker, referrals to Children's Services should be made to the child's social worker, the team leader or a team colleague. Forced Marriage is a Child Protection issue. Children's Social Care has a duty to investigate allegations of abuse and is seen as one of the agencies with a key role to play.

2.5 If an allegation of forced marriage is made, or a child/young person discloses that they are at risk, a section 47 investigation should take place. This will be done without parental consent. A referral should be made to the First Response Team or, if out of hours, 08009997677. The following information is needed for the referral; (if you do not have all the information listed, still make the referral - do not delay.)

- Name of child/young person (check all names are spelled correctly).
- Age (check date of birth as accurately as possible).
- Details of any siblings.
- Parent's name(s) (check the surname of the parent is accurate)
- Home address (telephone number, if available).
- Special circumstances; for example, language barriers, context disclosure took place etc. What prompted the concerns? (Include as much detail as possible, including dates, times etc.).
- Any physical or behavioural signs?
- Is the person making the report expressing their own concerns or passing on those of someone else? If so, record details.
- Has the child/young person been spoken to? If so, what was said?
- Is anyone alleged to be the abuser? If so, record details.
- Has anyone else been consulted? If so, record the details.