



Safeguarding code of practice: out-of-school settings

The Department for Education is consulting on the development of a draft voluntary safeguarding code of practice for out-of-school settings (OOSS), as well as guidance for parents on key questions they may wish to consider when choosing an out-of-school setting for their child. Responses are being sought on proposals relating to: health and safety; online and digital safety; suitability of staff and volunteers; governance; finance. The deadline for responses is 24 February 2019.



For further information search: [Safeguarding questions for parents and carers: draft guidance \(PDF\)](#)



Faith, Culture and Beliefs

A lack of understanding of the religions and cultural context of families can lead to professionals overlooking situations that may put family members at risk; whilst the desire to be culturally sensitive.

Risk Factors:

- Social and cultural isolation or fear of isolation,
- Cultural and religions beliefs overriding self-interest,
- Cultural conflict with families,
- Religion and culture as a distraction from child protection issues,
- Challenge of children developing their own self-identity,
- Professional misconceptions, lack of confidence and lack of knowledge,
- Converting to a partner's religion,
- Belief in spirit possession,
- Interplay between religion and mental health issues.

Forced Marriage

A marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor.

Factors behind Forced Marriage

- Controlling unwanted, behaviour particularly that of women and preventing 'unsuitable' relationships,
- Wearing 'wrong' clothing/too much make-up,
- Socialising with members of opposite sex,
- Being seen to be overly affectionate in public,
- Dating someone of different race, culture/caste or religion,
- Being or perceived as being LGBT,
- Drinking, smoking or using drugs,
- Protecting perceived cultural or religious ideals.

No religion endorses forced marriage, similarly, forced marriage is a form of abuse. Abuse is not part of any culture, whether the victim's family.

For further information go to:

<http://safeguarding.dudley.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=314376>