

Policy document for: **So called Honour Based Abuse (HBA)**

Updated: Autumn 2025

This policy forms part of the Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and gives specific school actions in relation to their context.

Linked guidance

- Keeping Children Safe in Education

Staff must remember contextual safeguarding

When considering safeguarding incident or behaviour concerns, all assessments must consider whether wider environmental factors are present in a child's life that are a threat to their safety and/or welfare. This is an approach to understanding and responding to children's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. This includes online abuse.

HBA, sometimes referred to as honour crime or izzat, is a term used to describe practices used to control a person's behaviour in family or community settings in order to protect perceived cultural or religious beliefs. HBA occurs when a perpetrator takes violent action on a relative who they believe has brought shame upon the family or community by breaking the perceived honour code. This can include domestic/sexual violence, forced marriage, FGM, abduction or murder.

All forms of HBA violate a person's rights. It is a form of abuse. The factor which distinguishes HBA from other types of abuse is the approval and or collusion of the victim's family or community. HBA may occur for a variety of reasons but with one common factor – that the victim has brought dishonour on the family or community, for example if they:

- Have a boyfriend / girlfriend from a different culture or religion;
- Have a boyfriend / girlfriend not chosen by the family;
- Do not want to go ahead with a forced marriage;
- Behave and/or dress in a way perceived as too westernised;
- Are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender

Some other key motives can be:

- Controlling unwanted sexuality including being gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or perceived promiscuity (particularly women);
- Controlling unwanted behaviour e.g. alcohol, drug use, behaving in what is perceived to be a westernised manner;
- Preventing unsuitable relationships e.g. outside ethic, cultural, religious or caste group;
- Protecting family honour;
- Peer group or family pressure;
- Attempting to strengthen family links;
- Achieving financial gain;
- Ensuring land, property and wealth remain in a family;
- Protecting perceived cultural ideals;
- Protecting perceived religious ideals which are misguided;

- Ensuring care for a child / adult with SEND;
- Assisting claims for UK residence and citizenship;
- Long standing family commitments

The indicators of HBA and associated factors will be covered with staff within the school safeguarding training. All members of staff are alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBA, or already having suffered HBA.

HBA can take many forms and victims may experience:

- Direct threats and controlling behaviour;
- Threatening phone calls, emails or texts;
- Abuse via social media;
- Emotional cruelty / psychological abuse;
- Domestic abuse;
- Imprisonment;
- Abduction / kidnap;
- Forced repatriation;
- Sexual abuse which may include rape;
- Forced abortion;
- Forced pregnancy;
- Assault;
- Murder
- FGM
- Breast ironing
- Forced marriage

Staff should report concerns around HBA within the staffing team, parents, visitors or volunteers to the DSL team to report their concerns under adult safeguarding procedures. *DSLs can also contact the Honour helpline 0800 599 9247 for advice.*

All forms of HBA are abuse, regardless of the motivation, and concerns will be responded to in line with section 3 of **child protection policy**. Staff will report any concerns about HBA to the DSL (or a deputy). If there is an immediate threat, the police will be contacted.

Links for further support:

- <https://karmanirvana.org.uk/> (also forced marriage)
- <https://www.haloproject.org.uk/> (also for forced marriage)