Bourne Alliance
Multi Academy Trust

Policy document for: **Honour or faith Based Abuse (HBA)**

Updated: Autumn 2026

This policy forms part of the Trust Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and reflects the latest KCSIE guidance. Keeping children safe in education 2026 (comes into force from 1 September 2026) See page 175 for full details

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.

Honour or faith-based abuse (HBA) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving honour often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators

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 shame or 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 transexual

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, wearing make-up, 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 the **safeguarding and 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. All concerns must be logged on CPOMS where they relate to a family whose child attends a Trust school. The DSL will contact the Front Door for guidance.

See also **FGM** and **Forced Marriage** policies for more information

Links for further support:

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