

## FORCED MARRIAGE

**A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is recognised as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.**

A marriage must be entered into with the free and full consent of both parties. An arranged marriage is not the same as a forced marriage.

In an arranged marriage, the families take a leading role in choosing the marriage partner, but both parties are free to choose whether to enter into the marriage or not.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor. In some case people may be taken abroad without knowing that they are to be married. When they arrive in that Country, their passport(s)/travel documents may be taken to try to stop them from returning to the UK.

**Staff** training and information is disseminated through our Child Protection Training and in updates. The school Attendance Officer is aware of the countries in which forced marriage is prevalent and monitors all leaves of absence.

**Students** learn about this through PSMSC programme, assemblies and visiting speakers and in curriculum time.

They learn what to do if they have a concern where to go to get help if they need it (in school and in the community).

**Parents** can find help and advice by following this link:



For information about honour crimes and forced marriages.