

Exploring concerns about faith or belief with children

Below are some signs or scenarios you may come across. We have highlighted some ways you can explore concerns around abuse linked to faith or belief in a sensitive and appropriate way.



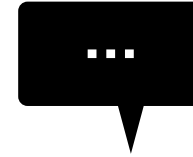
Observe/Listen

A child says that they are having the devil beaten out of them or evil spirits taken out.

The child's is treated differently to other children in the family.

A child reporting that they are or have been accused of being evil/devil/possessed.

A child says they attend a place of worship for long periods of time which is why they are tired during the day.



Enquire

*Reassure them that they did the right thing telling you and they are not evil.
"You mention X, what does that mean?" – "Who is beating you?"*

"How are things at home?" – "I see you don't want to go home, is something bothering you?"

"Who told you that?" – "Has anyone hurt you because they think that?" – "How does that make you feel" – "Can you tell me more about that?"

"How often are you attending X" – "When do you go to X" – "Do you enjoy going" – "What do you do at x"

Based on what the child says you may decide to make referral. Please highlight that you are concerned the child is at risk of abuse linked to faith or belief in the referral and include any details of the conversation had with the child, including any terminology used. You can call the National FGM Centre for advice and guidance or visit our website for more information.