

## North London Buddhist Centre Child Protection Code of Conduct 2023

This code of conduct was approved by the council of trustees of the North London Buddhist centre on 13th September 2023

As a Friend, Mitra or Order member and as an employee, volunteer, leader, teacher or parent involved with children aged under 18 visiting, or taking part in activities at the North London Buddhist Centre.

### I will do my best to

- treat all children and young people with respect and kindness.
- be an example of the good conduct I wish to see in young people and others.
- respect a young person's right to personal privacy.
- encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable and caring enough to point out attitudes or behaviour they do not like.
- remember that someone else might misinterpret my actions, no matter how well-intentioned
- be aware that physical contact with a child or young person may be misinterpreted.
- co-operate within the North London Buddhist Centre's Child protection policy.
- give guidance and support to less experienced helpers, colleagues and volunteers.
- challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspensions of abuse to the North London Buddhist Centre's Safeguarding officer, Akshayapradipa.
- **ensure that, whenever possible, there is more than one adult present during activities with children or at least that we are within sight or hearing of others.**

This is for my own protection as well as for the protection of children and young people in our care.

### I will not

- allow someone who is likely to pose a risk to children to have contact with children (ie someone known to have a conviction for sexual or violent offences, or someone who has disclosed a sexual interest in children).
- attempt to contact anyone 15-17 by phone, text, email or social media, without checking with our Safeguarding officer as to what terms have been agreed with the child's parent/guardian.
- have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people.
- attempt to contact anyone under 18 by phone, text, email or social media.
- make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children or young people.
- exaggerate or trivialise child-abuse issues.
- rely on my good name or that of the North London Buddhist Centre to protect me.
- assume "Things like that could never happen here" or "They would never do a thing like that."

### I will do my best to avoid

- being alone in a room with a person under 18 out of sight or hearing of others.
- engaging in attention-seeking behaviour.
- jumping to conclusions without checking facts.
- showing favouritism to any child.

*This document is to be read in conjunction with the North London Buddhist Centre's Child Protection Policy 2023 and 'Caring for Teenagers in Triratna 2023'.*

<https://thebuddhistcentre.com/search/node/safeguarding>