

The Wellington Buddhist Centre Child Protection Code of Conduct 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 run by the Wellington 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 behavior 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 Wellington Buddhist Centre Child Protection Policy.
- give guidance and support to less experienced helpers, colleagues, and volunteers.
- challenge unacceptable behavior and report all allegations/suspensions of abuse to the Centre Safeguarding Officer (Mettadharini).
- **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 (i.e., 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 Officers as to what terms have been agreed with the child's parent/guardian.
- have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people.
- make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children or young people.
- exaggerate or trivialize child-abuse issues.
- rely on my good name or that of the Wellington 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 behavior.
- jumping to conclusions without checking facts.
- showing favoritism to any child.

I have read the guidance above and agree to abide by it.

Name: Mettadharini (Dianne Laws) Safeguarding Officer

Signature – signed electronically

Date August 2023

This document is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying [Wellington Buddhist Centre Child Protection Policy 2023 and the guidance document 'Caring for Young Persons 2023'.