

# Community of Interbeing UK - Child Protection Code of Conduct 2023

*This Child Protection Code of Conduct 2023 is to be read in conjunction with our Child Protection Policy 2023*

As an employee, volunteer, facilitator, Dharma Teacher, visiting monastic, or parent involved with children aged under 18 attending or taking part in activities with the Community of Interbeing UK (COI UK).

## **I will do my best to**

- Treat all children and young people with respect, kindness, and compassion, embodying the principles of non-discrimination, ensuring an inclusive and supportive environment for everyone.
- Be an example of good conduct by practicing the Five Mindfulness Trainings in my thoughts, words, and actions, inspiring young people and others to cultivate mindfulness, understanding, and compassion in their daily lives.
- Respect a young person's right to personal privacy and ensure their safety and integrity by upholding the Third Mindfulness Training on True Love, promoting responsible behaviour, and protecting against any form of misconduct or harm.
- Clearly establish and maintain appropriate boundaries with children and young people in both physical and emotional interactions, avoiding any behaviour that could be construed as overly familiar or invasive.
- Follow the CoI UK's policies regarding online interactions and social media usage with children and young people, ensuring their safety and privacy in digital spaces.
- Encourage open, honest, and respectful communication among young people and adults, empowering them with Loving Speech and Deep Listening to express their concerns, feelings, needs, and any attitudes or behaviours they do not like.
- Maintain awareness of my actions, their potential interpretations, and their impact on others, ensuring that they align with the Five Mindfulness Trainings and prioritise the well-being of children and young people.
- Practice mindful consumption in accordance with the Fifth Mindfulness Training, fostering a nurturing and healing atmosphere for the physical and mental well-being of all involved.
- Share my joy, happiness, and mindfulness with children and young people.
- Participate in briefings and updates on child protection and safeguarding best practices, staying informed and ensuring the continuous improvement of my skills and knowledge.
- Respect and maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information about children and young people, sharing it only with those who have a legitimate need to know, such as the Named Safeguarding Coordinator or appropriate authorities.
- Familiarise myself with the community's reporting procedures and adhere to them when sharing concerns, suspicions, or allegations of abuse.
- Ensure that activities and programs are inclusive and accessible to all children and young people, regardless of their abilities, backgrounds, or circumstances.

In addition, I will:

- Cooperate within our charity's Child Protection Policy, actively integrating the Five Mindfulness Trainings into all interactions with children and young people to ensure their well-being and safety.
- Offer guidance and support to less experienced helpers, colleagues, and volunteers, sharing the wisdom of the Five Mindfulness Trainings and promoting their application in safeguarding and child protection practices.
- Challenge and address unacceptable behaviour, report all allegations or suspicions of abuse to our Named Safeguarding Coordinator, and strive for openness, non-discrimination, and non-attachment to views.
- 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, safeguarding both myself and the children in our care from any potential misunderstandings or harm.

These measures are for my own protection as well as for the safeguarding of children and young people in our care.

**I will not**

- Allow someone who poses a risk to children to have contact with them, adhering to the Third Mindfulness Training by vigilantly protecting children from any form of misconduct, abuse, or harm.
- Attempt to contact anyone aged under 18 through phone, text, email, or social media without first consulting our Named Safeguarding Coordinator, ensuring that the agreed boundaries with the child's parent/guardian are respected.
- Make suggestive, derogatory, or inappropriate remarks or gestures in front of children or young people.
- Exaggerate or trivialise child-abuse issues.
- Rely on my good name or that of our charity 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**

- Engaging in attention-seeking behaviour.
- Jumping to conclusions without checking facts.
- Showing favouritism to anyone.

I have read the requirements of our Child Protection Policy and this Code of Conduct, and agree to abide by them.

**Name**

**Signature**

**Date**