



Child protection Code of Conduct 2025

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 Birmingham Buddhist Centre. In the course of activities run by Birmingham Buddhist Centre **I will ensure that there is more than one adult present during activities with children or at least that we are within sight or hearing of others.**

I will also 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 confident 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 Birmingham Buddhist Centre 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 Birmingham Buddhist Centre's Safeguarding Officer, Dharmashalin.
- This is for my own protection as well as for the protection of children and young people in our care.

I will do my best not to:

- 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).
- Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with children or young people.
- Allow myself to be left alone in a room with a person under 18.
- Ask a person under 18 for their phone number, or attempt to contact them via email, messaging services or social media, without the permission of their parent or guardian.
- Engage in attention-seeking behaviour.
- Make suggestive or derogatory remarks or gestures in front of children or young people.
- Jump to conclusions without checking facts.
- Exaggerate or trivialise child-abuse issues.
- Show favouritism to any child.
- Take a chance, when common sense or policy suggests a more prudent approach.
- Rely on my good name or that of the Birmingham Buddhist Centre to protect me.
- Assume "Things like that could never happen here" or "They would never do a thing like that."

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