

## **The Triratna Buddhist Community (Colchester)**

### **Child protection code of conduct 2021**

As a Friend, Mitra or Order member and as an employee, volunteer, leader, teacher or parent involved with aged children under 18 visiting, or taking part in activities at the Colchester 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 Triratna Buddhist Community (Colchester) 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 Triratna Buddhist Community (Colchester)'s Safeguarding officer, Sthiranaga (Darren Barringer).
- **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 under 15 by phone, text, email or social media.
- 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 [name of Triratna Buddhist Centre/enterprise] 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.

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

**Name**

**Signature**

**Date**

*This document is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Triratna Buddhist Community (Colchester) Child Protection Policy 2021 and the guidance document 'Caring for teenagers in Triratna' 2021.*