

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 Mid Essex Buddhist Centre:

In the course of activities at The Mid Essex 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 Mid Essex Buddhist Centre protection policy
- give guidance and support to less experienced helpers, colleagues and volunteers
- challenge unacceptable behaviour and report all allegations/suspicions of abuse to the Mid Essex Buddhist Centre's Safeguarding officer, Sthiranaga
- **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 do my best not to:

- allow someone who is likely to pose a risk to children to have contact with children (i.e. a known sex offender or someone who has disclosed 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 16 for their phone number, or attempt to contact them via email, messaging services or social media without the permission of their parent or guardian
- allow myself to be drawn into inappropriate, 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
- rely on my good name or that of the Mid Essex Buddhist Centre to protect me
- believe "Things like that could never happen here" or "They would never do a thing like that."

I have read the guidance above, and the accompanying Mid Essex Buddhist Centre Child Protection Policy, and agree to abide by them.

Name (please print):

Signature

Date