

## **Sudarshanaloka Retreat Centre Child Protection Code of Behaviour**

As a Friend, Mitra or Order member and as an employee, resident, volunteer, leader, teacher or parent involved with children aged under 16, visiting or taking part in activities at Sudarshanaloka Retreat Centre

### **I will**

- 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.
- be aware 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 Sudarshanaloka Retreat Centre's 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 Sudarshanaloka Retreat Centre's Designated Person, Akasamati.  
([safeguarding@sudarshanaloka.nz](mailto:safeguarding@sudarshanaloka.nz))
- ensure that, wherever possible, I am not the only adult present during activities with children or at least that I am 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 (ie a known sex offender or someone who has disclosed sexual interest in children) to have contact with children.
- 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.
- jump to conclusions without checking facts.
- exaggerate or trivialise child-abuse issues.
- show unhealthy favouritism to any child.
- rely on my good name or that of Sudarshanaloka Retreat Centre to protect me.
- believe "things like this could never happen here."