

AUKANA

The Aukana Trust Child Protection Policy

Approved by the Trustees January 2022

The Aukana Trust is a registered charity (No. 326938) based at The House of Inner Tranquillity, a Buddhist Meditation Centre (the "Centre") at 9 Masons Lane, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1QN.

The Centre has no members under the age of 18 years old in its community.

None of the Centre's activities are available to or aimed at children. All contact with children is set out below.

Children and the Meditation Centre

- 1) Approximately every 2 years the Centre may respond to a request for a short educational visit by a small group of "A" Level students. A prerequisite of any such visit is that the children are always accompanied by an adult member of their teaching staff. They remain supervised in their group for the duration of the visit.
- 2) Every two years the Centre hosts an Open Day. This is an afternoon when the family and friends of members are invited to visit the Centre. Children may be present but attend only as part of a family group or with an accompanying adult.

Our responsibility

The Centre's circumscribed contact with children does not diminish the Trust's responsibility to have a policy and practice in place to address safeguarding issues – or potential issues – that may be brought to the attention of Trustees or members in the Centre and/or Trust.

The Trust and Centre acknowledge that anyone can divulge concerns about abuse, or abuse itself, at any point. We understand our responsibility and recognise that we have a duty of care to protect those aged under 18 at all times.

All Trustees and those involved in teaching activities undertake to read this Policy.

In the event of a potential or actual safeguarding concern, Trustees have a duty to follow the formal process set out here and to take appropriate action swiftly and respectfully.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children, have the right to equal protection from harm.
- Partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them.
- Adopting child protection guidelines and a code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring checks are made where necessary.
- Sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.

Reporting abuse

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All reports or suspicions about abuse must be treated seriously. They may include:

- Something you see.
- Something you are told by someone else.
- Rumours about a person's previous behaviour.
- Behaviour you observe in a child.
- Disclosure from a child directly.

What to do if child abuse is suspected or someone else tells you about child abuse

- Make notes about the discussion including time, date, location. Record as accurately as possible and keep the notes safe.
- Do not be tempted to investigate yourself.
- Report the incident to The Aukana Trust's Safeguarding officer: **David Gilbert** (Tel. 07923 818881).
- Ensure the safety of the child. This may involve contacting the Child Protection Officer at the Social Services or the Police straight away.
- If you make a referral by telephone, confirm it in writing within 24 hours.
- Do not discuss the matter with anyone else. This could prejudice a court case and put the child in danger.

How to protect children and yourself

- If working with a school or other body working with children, advise their staff that their teachers/leaders must be present at all times during the visit.
- Do not be alone with a child where other adults or children cannot see you.
- Treat all children and young people with respect and dignity.
- Do not tease or joke in a way that might be misunderstood by the child and cause hurt.

Aukana Trust Spiritual Head:	Paul Harris
Spiritual Head signature:	
Date:	

Aukana Trust Safeguarding Officer:	David Gilbert
Safeguarding Officer's signature:	
Date:	