

Telford Buddhist Priory

Safeguarding Children policy

Telford Buddhist Priory
49, The Rock, Telford, TF3 5BH
Website: www.tbpriory.org.uk
Registered charity no: 1088942

The purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to inform people who take part in the activities and services provided by Telford Buddhist Priory, either at the priory itself or any offsite activity arranged by us, of the measures we have in place, to protect both children and those who engage with them, as part of our congregation.

It aims to provide

- protection for children under 18
- protection for adults who may have contact with children.

It sets out

- practices and procedures contributing to the prevention of abuse of children.
- a course of action to be followed if abuse is suspected.

Our values

Telford Buddhist Priory is a charitable trust, which exists to both develop people's knowledge of the Buddhist religion and provide a place of refuge for people wishing train in Buddhism. Therefore, from time to time, children visit us, usually accompanied by their parents/guardian or, in the case of a school visit, with their teacher. As part of our educational aims, the resident priest or one the lay ministers, periodically visit schools to deliver talks and assemblies. Ensuring the sexual, physical and psychological safety of children involved in the activities and services we provide is an expression of the wisdom and compassion taught by the Buddha.

The trustees recognise their responsibility to ensure the welfare of children aged under 18, and are committed to their protection (See also our Vulnerable Adults policy).

Karen Richards is our Safeguarding Officer.

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Telephone: 08437130068

We recognise that:

- the welfare of the child is paramount.

- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation or gender identity, 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.

This policy applies to anyone acting on behalf of the Telford Buddhist Priory.

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 our congregation and representatives.
- ensuring checks are made, where necessary, on volunteers (priest or lay ministers) who represent Telford Buddhist Priory during onsite and offsite activities, involving children.
- sharing information about child protection and good practice with children, parents, and volunteers.
- sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately.
- providing effective management for volunteers through supervision, support and training.

Who is a “child”?

A “child” is a person aged under 18 years.

What is “child abuse”?

The World Health Organisation defines child abuse as “all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.”

Types of cruelty

- **Physical abuse** including hurting or injuring a child, inflicting pain, poisoning, drowning, or smothering.
- **Sexual abuse** including direct or indirect sexual exploitation or corruption of children by involving them (or threatening to involve them) in inappropriate sexual activities.
- **Emotional abuse** Repeatedly rejecting children, humiliating them or denying their worth and rights as human beings.

- **Neglect** The persistent lack of appropriate care of children, including love, stimulation, safety, nourishment, warmth, education, and medical attention.

A child who is being abused may experience more than one type of cruelty. Discrimination, harassment, and bullying are also abusive and can harm a child, both physically and emotionally.

Signs of abuse

These are many and varied. Some have perfectly acceptable explanations. It is useful to bear in mind:

- Any injuries that cannot be explained
- Injuries not consistent with falls or rough games
- Malnourishment
- Any allegations made by children concerning abuse
- Sexual activity through words, play or drawing
- Self harm
- Eating disorders

Reporting abuse

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 a child reports abuse

- Keep calm and reassure the child that they are doing the right thing and are not to blame, even if they have broken some rules.
- Accept what the child says without judgment.
- Look directly at the child.
- Be honest. Do not promise confidentiality; let them know you will have to tell someone else.
- Be aware the child may have been threatened and may be very afraid.
- Never push for information or question the child. Let them tell you as much as they are ready to tell you.
- Never suggest that the child may be wrong or mistaken.

What to do next

- Ensure the safety of the child. This may involve phoning social services or police straight away.
- If you make a referral by telephone, confirm it in writing within 24 hours.
- 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.
- **Tell the Telford Buddhist Priory's Safeguarding officer named at the start of this document, and Rev. Saïdo Kennaway**
- **Do not discuss the matter with anyone else.** This could prejudice a court case and put the child in danger.
- Contact: Telford and Wrekin Family Connect Team on 01952 385385 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday – Friday or the Emergency Duty Service on 01952 676500 after 5p.m. Monday –Sunday
- or dial 999 in an emergency and ask for the Child Protection Officer.

How to protect children and yourself

See the Telford Buddhist Priory Child Protection Code of Conduct, which accompanies this policy.

- If working with a school or other body working with children (for example the Scouts) advise their staff that their teachers/leaders must be present at all times during the visit/joint activities.
- 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 invade the privacy of children when they are showering, changing or using the toilet.
- Do not engage in intrusive touching.
- Do not tease or joke in a way that might be misunderstood by the child and cause hurt.
- Do not share sleeping accommodation with children.
- Do not invite a child into your home on their own. Invite a group or ensure someone else is in the house. Make sure the parents know where the child is.
- Do not give lifts to children on their own, other than for very short journeys. If they are alone, ask them to sit in the back of the car.
- Do not allow someone who is likely to pose a risk to children to have contact with children (ie a known sex offender or someone who has disclosed a sexual interest in children).
- Such a person should be asked to negotiate a behaviour contract setting out the terms of their continued participation in Telford Buddhist Priory activities within agreed boundaries. (See the document 'Managing a sex offender'.)

Telford Buddhist Priory

Chair's name

Rev D.H.S. Kennaway

Safeguarding officer's name

Karen Richards

Date

Reviewed 2nd January 2019

This document is to be read in conjunction with Telford Buddhist Priory's Child protection code of conduct.

Published 2017 by the trustees of the Telford Buddhist Priory