

National Spiritual Assembly of Ireland
Code of Conduct for Child Safeguarding
Policy Version 6.4 – July 2024

Code of Conduct for those working with children and young people under 18

Teachers, animators, tutors and all involved in working with children and young people under 18 should observe the following in relation to their interactions with them:

- Make every effort to create an environment where all children feel welcomed, valued and respected.
- Demonstrate respect for spiritual, moral and cultural values, for diversity, social justice, freedom and the environment amongst others.
- Show empathy in practice, using restorative techniques in situations where children may need to be disciplined.
- Be sensitive to the risks involved in participating in contact sports or other activities.
- Be aware that while physical contact is a valid way of comforting, reassuring and showing concern for children, it should only take place when it is acceptable to all persons concerned.
- Never physically punish or be in any way verbally abusive to a child, nor should they even tell jokes of a sexual nature in the presence of children.
- Be sensitive to the possibility of developing favouritism, or of becoming over involved or spending a great deal of time with any one child.
- *It is not recommended that Teachers/Animators/Tutors or Assistants give lifts in their cars to individual young people, especially for long journeys.*
- The personal space, safety and privacy of individuals must be respected.

Code of Conduct for Children and Young People who are under 18

- Children should demonstrate and have respect for their fellow class/group members.
- Children should support each other in the activities undertaken by the class/group.
- The personal space, safety and privacy of individuals must be respected.
- Children should be encouraged to report cases of bullying to either their Teachers/Animators/Tutors or Assistants. These situations will need to be addressed in the class or group.
- The following behaviour will not be accepted in the class or group:
 - the consumption of alcohol, the use of drugs and smoking during the activities of the class or group whether within the confines of the building or otherwise.
 - the physical abuse of other members, teachers, animators or assistants
 - the verbal abuse including “put-downs” of other, members, teachers, animators or assistants either directly or electronically e.g. by using mobile phones, social media etc.
 - the destruction or damage of property or equipment.

Should a situation arise where a child’s behaviour severely disrupts the proceedings of the class/group, to the detriment of other children involved, then a parent will be called to come and collect them. In a case where the parent cannot collect the child, the teacher, animator, tutor or assistant may remove the child from the class but stay with the child. The parent will be called immediately and informed of the situation. Consultation will then take place between the teacher/animator and the child’s parents to resolve the situation in a positive manner.