



At Mandala Yoga Ashram we believe that all children (people under the age of 18) have a right to:

- be valued as a person, treated with dignity and respect, cared for and kept safe
- be protected from neglect, abuse and exploitation regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs
- practice yoga, to support their physical and emotional wellbeing, in an enjoyable and safe environment.

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility and the Ashram has a duty of care to safeguard children's wellbeing and protect them from harm. Every child's safety and welfare will always be given first priority. To achieve this we will:

- appoint a Safeguarding Officer and deputy to lead child safeguarding on behalf of the Ashram
- require the Ashram employee, residents, yoga teachers, guests and Trustees to comply with this policy and the Child Safeguarding Procedure
- train and supervise the employee, residents and Trustees to have a full and practical understanding of how to safeguard children
- listen to anyone who raises concerns about a child who may be being abused and take the concerns seriously
- raise concerns ourselves, as early as possible, if we consider that a child may be being abused
- respond to such concerns and/ or allegations sensitively, appropriately and swiftly, including reporting to the Children's Social Care (the Local Authority Designated Officer) and, in emergencies, the police, and where required, the Charity Commission
- comply with legislation and guidance applicable to the Ashram, including requirements for upholding confidentiality
- implement this Policy, which is supported by a Child Safeguarding Procedure, and is endorsed by the Board of Trustees
- review this policy and the Child Safeguarding Procedure annually or when legislation changes, to ensure that they remain up-to-date and effective.

Swami Nishchalananda
Director and Spiritual Head of Mandala Yoga Ashram July 2019