

SAHAJA YOGA AUSTRALIA (GENERIC)

CHILD-SAFE CHILD FRIENDLY POLICY

CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct is a list of behaviours that are encouraged and expected and a list of behaviour that is not condoned. It is expected in Sahaja Yoga that everyone will follow the code in all their interaction with children and youth.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Sahaja Yoga provides an open, welcoming and safe environment for everyone participating in our programs. In order for the Sahaja Yoga community to provide a child-safe environment there is an uncompromising commitment to the safety and well-being of children.

This Code makes it clear when an adult's conduct 'crosses the line' which may lead to inappropriate behaviour before the conduct gets too serious.

This Code makes it clearer to children when someone isn't behaving in an appropriate manner, which can be confusing.

CODES

Everyone participating in Sahaja Yoga programs (including Sahaja Yoga Volunteers, children, parents and attendees) must keep to the following codes of behaviour.

DO:

- Treat everyone with respect and honesty (this includes volunteers, students, children, young people, parents and attendees).
- Behave as a positive role model to children and youth.
- Help provide an open, inclusive and family-friendly environment for children to interact in.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views and concerns of children and young people.
- Alert someone if I see a breach of this code.
- Follow the Sahaja Yoga NSW Child-safe Child-friendly Policy and take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety and protection of children and young people.
- Immediately report suspicions of child abuse or neglect to the Child-Safe Coordinator.
- Comply with state and federal child protection laws.
- Seek advice about suspicions and disclosures of child abuse or neglect from the appropriate Child Protection Crisis Service in each state.
- Always have another adult present or in sight when conducting activities with children.
- Record and act on serious complaints of abuse.

DO NOT:

- Use language or behaviour towards children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally inappropriate.
- Act in ways intended to shame or degrade children or otherwise perpetrate any form of emotional abuse.
- Discriminate against any child or young person because of age, gender or cultural background.
- Assist children to do things of a personal nature that they can do for themselves, such as going to the toilet or changing clothes.
- Touch a child in an age/culturally inappropriate manner.
- Engage a child in inappropriately rough physical play.
- Engage in any form of commercial exploitation of a child or provide shelter for children in their home in inappropriate circumstances.

Maintaining child-safe environments and activities

Sahaja Yoga will endeavour to create a safe, positive, child-focused environment for children and young people. Sahaja Yoga will endeavour to maintain safe environments for all children and youth activities by:

- Providing adequate levels of supervision for all children's activities, with a higher ration of Sahaja Yoga Volunteers for younger and/or special needs children.
- Requiring that at least two adults be present when working with children and young people.
- Ensuring that children's activities are conducted in easily monitored places that are open to external view. This means that children's and youth activity rooms will have windows or doors that allow for external visibility and activities are not undertaken in confined or concealed areas.
- Responding to bullying and other inappropriate behaviour between children and young people.
- Requiring Sahaja Yoga Volunteers to adhere to appropriate standards of conduct regarding communication and interaction with children and young people.
- Ensuring that adults in their interactions with children avoid favouritism of an individual child or younger person.
- Prohibiting Sahaja Yoga Volunteers from using physical discipline on children or young people.

Sahaja Yoga will strive to plan and conduct safe programs and activities with children by:

- Gaining prior approval of the Sahaja Yoga Australian Council for all child and youth activities, if the activities will be conducted offsite or involve an overnight stay.
- Ensuring that a log, or other suitable record, of all child and youth activities that the Sahaja Yoga Australian Council approves of is kept.
- Ensuring that venues and equipment are safe for children and young people to use.
- Obtaining parental consents and permission, where required, for particular activities.
- Transporting children and young people with due care.

For clarification or further information about anything in this Code of Conduct please contact the Sahaja Yoga Australia National Coordinator/s by email at: info@leta.org.au