



Palpung Changchub Dargyeling

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Centre

&

Palpung Maitri House

House of Friendship

Community Venue

Updated 13/10/2022

Child Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding Statement

Palpung Wales does not provide specific services for children, or children and their families, but children, and their families, may access more general services connected with the centre's overall aims, whether at the Meditation Centre, or Maitri House.

Palpung Wales will endeavour at all times to protect children from harm or maltreatment; to ensure the provision of a safe environment and activities; to promote positive health and development; to promote a positive attitude towards the healthy development of children within the family environment.

We work within the current legal framework of safeguarding and protecting children in Wales and will work in partnership with other local/national agencies in safeguarding children and young people by having appropriate procedures for investigating, reporting and making onward referrals as and when required.

All staff and volunteers involved in the day-to-day running and activities at the Meditation Centre and Maitri House will be appropriately recruited, trained and supported with clear guidance as to their responsibilities and expected responses should a child or young person appear to be at risk of harm.

Safeguarding is everyone's business but the ultimate responsibility for the overview of safeguarding (children and adults) rests with the day-to-day manager of the centres, and the Palpung Trustees.

Harm is caused by accidents, deliberate abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, financial), neglect or factors such as bullying, prejudicial attitudes etc. All incidents of harm to any child or young person will require the appropriate response to report and investigate including onward referral to other agencies if appropriate to reduce further and future risk.

We support and encourage all those using the premises, that is those attending classes, volunteers and staff, to contact the day-to-day onsite manager and voice their concerns where there is

- a concern (a worry, issue or doubt about practice or treatment of a child or young person, or their circumstances), or
- a disclosure (information about a child or young person at risk of or suffering from significant harm) or
- an allegation (the possibility that a service user, volunteer or staff member has potentially caused harm to a child or young person in their care)

Any reports relating to safeguarding issues will be kept securely and confidentially according our data protection policy and confidentiality statement, until or unless it is necessary to share this material with other agencies who have responsibilities for safeguarding. Information will be shared on a "need-to-know" basis only.

Meditation Centre

Within the Meditation Centre premises, meditation and Buddhist teaching sessions can be attended by children and young people (aged up to age 16), only if accompanied by a parent or other appropriate responsible adult. Young people 16-18 can attend if accompanied by an adult over 18 years of age.

Children and young people under the age of 16 will not be considered for booking a period of personal retreat, and those 16-18, only following an application process and discussion with the centre manager.

Young people 16-18 may request an individual meeting with the centre's resident Lama, and at any such meeting they will need to be accompanied by a friend, family member, or one of the centre's staff/volunteers.

Palpung Maitri House

At Maitri House, other groups or organisations may provide activities and services which are open to and suitable for children, young people and their families. We expect that such groups and organisations will both have and implement policies/procedures for the safeguarding of children and young people. Before agreeing such organisations' usage of Maitri House we reserve the right to check that such policies/procedures are in place.
