

Santi Forest Monastery Child Safety Code Of Conduct

Following this code will help to protect children and young people from abuse and inappropriate behaviours at SFM. It will also help resident and visiting monastics, and other guests to maintain the standard of behaviour expected of them.

Having a Code of Conduct protects SFM because the opportunities for harm are actively reduced.

SFM resident and visiting monastics, members of the SFM Committee, and guests at SFM are required to abide by this Code which includes:

1. Treating children and young people with respect and valuing their ideas and opinions;
2. Acting as positive role models in their conduct with children and young people;
3. Acting lawfully at all times;
4. Working to maintain a child-safe environment for children and young people;
5. Conducting themselves in accordance with the SFM Child Safety Framework; and,
6. Contacting the police if a child is at immediate risk of abuse (phone 000).

No SFM resident or visiting monastic, or SFM guest shall:

1. Shame, humiliate, oppress, belittle or degrade children or young people;
2. Unlawfully discriminate against any child or young person;
3. Engage in any activity with a child or young person that is likely to physically or emotionally harm them;
4. Initiate unnecessary physical contact with a child or young person, or do things of a personal nature for them that they can do for themselves;
5. Be alone with a child or young person unnecessarily and for more than a very short time;
6. Develop a 'special' relationship with a specific child or young person for their own needs, that is, undertake any activity that comprises "grooming behaviour";
7. Photograph or video a child or young person without the consent of the child and their parents or guardians;
8. Be on SFM property whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs;
9. Engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children;
10. Use inappropriate language in the presence of children; or
11. Do anything in contravention of the NSW Care Act, or that does not align with the SFM Child Safety Framework, which includes this Code of Conduct.

Code Of Conduct Breaches

Breaching this Code of Conduct will result in penalties including and up to cessation of all current residential/visitation arrangements at SFM, together with the permanent prohibition of further residential, visitation, membership, engagement arrangements or any other associations with SFM as decided by the Spiritual Director.