

" ATTACHMENT 8 "

## Practice and behaviour guidelines

The Yeshivah Centre Synagogues incorporate the following three synagogues located at 88-92 Hotham Street, St Kilda East, 3183:

1. Yeshivah Shule,
2. Young Yeshivah; and
3. Kollel Menachem.

### Purpose

The Yeshivah Centre Synagogues aims to provide children and young people with a positive and enriching spiritual, educational, meaningful and safe environment that promotes their religious, spiritual and educational development.

We are committed to safeguarding children and young people in our care and ensuring that they feel and are safe. Accordingly, we wish to ensure that our personnel strive for the highest possible standards with respect to safeguarding children and young people from abuse. To that end we have developed these practice and behaviour guidelines to identify, and so prevent, behaviour that may be harmful to the children and young people in our care.

### Application

All personnel, from our Rabbis, synagogues committees to casual staff and volunteers, are required to observe these practice and behaviour guidelines. Developed to protect children and young people engaged in our prayer, educational, recreational and religious services, these guidelines have been formally approved and endorsed by the Chabad Institutions Victoria Limited board of directors and adopted by each of the Yeshivah Centre Synagogues (by its Rabbi and committee members).

### Commitment

You should read these practice and behaviour guidelines in conjunction with:

- the specific requirements of your role as defined in your 'position description' statement
- our relevant policy and procedure documents, including our:
  - 'safeguarding children and young people' statement
  - 'responding to child abuse reports and allegations' policy
- all applicable laws
- general community expectations in relation to appropriate behaviour between adults and children.

As part of your commitment to observing these practice and behaviour guidelines you will be required to sign the Yeshivah Centre Synagogues statement of commitment to our child safety protection practice and behavior guidelines.

We consider a failure to observe these guidelines as misconduct, and will take appropriate disciplinary action. Such disciplinary action may, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct, include suspension while matters are investigated and/or dismissal. In addition to any internal disciplinary proceedings, we will report to the police all instances in which a breach of the law has or may have occurred.

## Exceptions

There may be exceptional situations where these guidelines do not apply, for example, in an emergency situation. However, it is crucial that, where possible, you seek management authorisation prior to taking action that contravenes these guidelines or that you advise management as soon possible after any incident in which these guidelines are breached.

## The guidelines

Our practice and behaviour guidelines address the major areas where you may interact with children and young people at the Yeshivah Centre Synagogues broadly, and in particular those who take part in the 'children services' offered for children during the Saturday and Jewish festival morning prayer services. We have developed these practice and behaviour guidelines to help you to safeguard those children and young people from abuse or neglect.

## Sexual misconduct

Under no circumstances are any of our personnel to engage in or allow any form of 'sexual behaviour' to occur between, with, or in the presence of, children or young people participating in any of our services or programs. Engaging in sexual behaviour with participants in our service is prohibited even if the young persons involved may be above the legal age of consent.

'Sexual behaviour' needs to be interpreted widely, to encompass the entire range of actions that would reasonably be considered to be sexual in nature, including but not limited to:

- 'contact behaviour', such as sexual intercourse, kissing (of a sexual nature), fondling, sexual penetration or exploiting a child through prostitution
- 'non-contact behaviour', such as flirting, sexual innuendo, inappropriate text messaging, inappropriate photography or exposure to pornography or nudity.

## Positive guidance (Discipline)

We strive to ensure that children and young people participating in our programs and services are aware of the acceptable limits of their behaviour so that we can provide a positive experience for all participants. However, there are times when personnel may be required to use appropriate techniques and behaviour management strategies to ensure:

- an effective and positive environment
- the safety and/or wellbeing of children, young people and personnel participating in our programs and services.

We require our personnel to use strategies that are fair, respectful and appropriate to the developmental stage of the children or young people involved. The child or young person needs to be provided with clear directions and given an opportunity to redirect their mis-behaviour in a positive manner.

Under no circumstances are our personnel to take disciplinary action involving physical punishment or any form of treatment that could reasonably be considered as degrading, cruel, frightening or humiliating including restraint or seclusion.

## Adhering to role boundaries

Our personnel should not, of their own volition or at the request of a service user, act outside the confines of their duties (as specified in their position description) when helping to deliver our programs and services.

If any of our personnel become aware of a situation in which a child or young person requires assistance that is beyond the confines of that person's role, or beyond the scope of our organisation's usual service, they should at the earliest opportunity:

- refer the matter to an appropriate support agency or
- refer the child or young person to an appropriate support agency or
- contact the child or young person's parent or guardian or
- seek advice from management.

Employees and volunteers are required to notify the Synagogue Rabbi or person nominated for this role when a child or young person with whom they have a pre-existing relationship is (or commences) receiving services from the organisation and the employee or and volunteer is providing or intends to provide services such as babysitting, transport or tutoring to the child or young person outside their role with the organisation.

Personnel must not use their position to solicit or initiate work with children outside their role with the organisation i.e. staff or volunteers should not approach children or parents to offer services. If they are approached to provide services they must inform the person that the organisation discourages the provision of such services. If they are approached to provide services they may provide such services where they have notified the Synagogue Rabbi or person nominated for this role, are a direct family member or have a pre-existing relationship with the family.

Merely informing the Synagogue Rabbi or person nominated for this role of any such arrangements will not constitute approval or endorsement.

**They must inform the family (or alternate employer) that the arrangement is completely independent of their work for the organisation (primary employer).**

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## Use of language and tone of voice

Language and tone of voice used in the presence of children and young people should:

- provide clear direction, boost their confidence, encourage or affirm them
- not be harmful to children – in this respect, avoid language that is:
  - discriminatory, racist or sexist
  - derogatory, belittling or negative, for example, by calling a child a 'loser' or telling them they are 'too fat'
  - intended to threaten or frighten
  - profane or sexual.

## Supervision

Personnel are responsible for supervising the children and young people to which our organisation provides services to ensure those participants:

- engage positively with our program including prayer and recreational services.
- behave appropriately toward one another, for example, using appropriate language and respecting each others personal and physical space.
- are in a safe environment and are protected from external threats, for example, other children or adults that have attended the Yeshivah Centre synagogues.

Our personnel are required to avoid one-to-one unsupervised situations with children and young people to whom we provide services, and (where possible) to conduct all activities and/or discussions with service recipients in view of other personnel.

### **Use of electronic communications**

We prohibit all electronic communication between our service delivery personnel and the children and young people to whom we provide services except in exceptional circumstances communicated first to the parents, in which case it must only be undertaken with transparency, ie be able to be monitored and be appropriate to the age of the child.

Wherever possible, email and text messages sent to a child or young person should be copied to their parent or guardian.

Where a parent is not included in the communication:

- Restrict such communication to issues directly associated with delivering our services such as advising that a scheduled event is cancelled.
- Limit the personal or social content in such communications to what is required to convey the service-related message in a polite, friendly manner. In particular, do not communicate anything that a reasonable observer could view as being of a sexual nature.
- Do not use such communication to promote unauthorised 'social' activity or to arrange unauthorised contact.
- Do not request a child or young person to keep a communication a secret from their parents.
- Do not communicate with children or young people using Internet chat rooms or similar forums on social networking sites, game sites or instant messaging where communications cannot be observed.

Personnel are not to communicate with children outside our services, such as siblings or friends who are known to personnel via a child participating in the service.

All our personnel, and the children and young people to whom we deliver our services, are required to follow our 'acceptable use' policy in relation to browsing websites on our organisation's computers.

Our personnel are required to ensure appropriate monitoring of children and young people when they use our organisation's electronic communication equipment to ensure that they do not inadvertently place themselves at risk of abuse or exploitation via social networking sites, gaming sites or web searches, or through inappropriate email communication.

## **Giving gifts**

The Synagogue Rabbi or committee is to authorise any gifts to children or young people involved in our programs and services, or to their families, including rewards, prizes, treats, or second-hand equipment. Where rewards are provided to individuals they are to be given during the program or service and not outside the hours of the program or service.

## **Photographs of children and young people**

We permit only organisational photography – approved by Rabbi or committee delegate – of children and young people to whom we provide service. .

Under these guidelines:

- children and young people to whom we deliver a program or service are to be photographed while involved in the program or service only if:
  - prior and specific parental approval is given.
  - the context is directly related to participation in our program or service. - the child is appropriately dressed and posed.
  - the image is taken in the presence of other personnel.
- Images are not to be distributed (including as an attachment to an email) to anyone outside our organisation other than the child photographed or their parent, without parental and management knowledge and approval.
- Images (digital or hard copy) are to be stored in a manner that prevents unauthorised access by others, for example:
  - if in hard-copy form, in a locked drawer or cabinet
  - if in electronic form, in a 'password protected' folder.
- Images (digital or hard copy) are to be destroyed or deleted as soon as they are no longer required.
- Images are not to be exhibited on our website without parental knowledge and approval, or such images must be presented in a manner that de-identifies the child or young person. Any caption or accompanying text may need to be checked so that it does not identify a child or young person if such identification is potentially detrimental.

## **Physical contact with children and young people**

Any physical contact with children and young people must be appropriate to the delivery of our program or service such as holding young persons hand for safety reasons and based on the needs of the child or young person (such as to assist or comfort a distressed young person) rather than on the needs of our personnel.

Under no circumstances should any of our personnel have contact with children or young people participating in our program or service that:

- involves touching:
  - of genitals
  - of buttocks
  - of the breast area (female children)
 that is other than as part of delivering medical or allied health services
- would appear to a reasonable observer to have a sexual connotation

- is intended to cause pain or distress to the child or young person – for example corporal punishment
- is overly physical – as is, for example, wrestling, horseplay, tickling or other roughhousing
- is unnecessary – as is, for example, assisting with toileting when a child does not require assistance
- is initiated against the wishes of the child or young person, except if such contact may be necessary to prevent injury to the child/young person or to others, in which case:
  - physical restraint should be a last resort
  - the level of force used must be appropriate to the specific circumstances, and aimed solely at restraining the child or young person to prevent harm to themselves or others
  - the incident must be reported to management as soon as possible.

Our personnel are required to report to management any physical contact initiated by a child or young person that is sexual and/or inappropriate, for example, acts of physical aggression, as soon as possible, to enable the situation to be managed in the interests of the safety of the child or young person, our personnel and any other participants.

### **Overnight stays and sleeping arrangements**

Overnight stays are to occur only with the authorisation of our Rabbi or nominated person and of the parents/guardians of the children or young people involved.

Practices and behaviour by our personnel during an overnight stay must be consistent with the practices and behaviour expected during delivery of program or service at other times.

Standards of conduct that must be observed by our personnel during an overnight stay include:

- providing children and young people with privacy when bathing and dressing
- observing appropriate dress standards when children and young people are present – such as no exposure to adult nudity
- not allowing children or young people to be exposed to pornographic material, for example, through movies, television, the Internet or magazines
- not leaving children under the supervision or protection of unauthorised persons such as hotel staff or friends
- not involving sleeping arrangements that may compromise the safety of children and young people such as unsupervised sleeping arrangements, or an adult sleeping in the same bed as a child or young person.
- the right of children to contact their parents, or others, if they feel unsafe, uncomfortable or distressed during the stay
- parents expecting that their children can, if they wish, make contact.

### **Change room arrangements**

Personnel are required to supervise children and young people in change rooms while balancing that requirement with a child or young person's right to privacy. In

addition:

- personnel should avoid one-to-one situations with a child or young person in a change room area
- personnel are not permitted to use the change room area to, for example, undress, while children and young people are present
- personnel need to ensure adequate supervision in 'public' change rooms when they are used
- personnel need to provide the level of supervision required for preventing abuse by members of the public, adult service users, peer service users, or general misbehaviour, while also respecting a child's privacy
- female personnel are not to enter male change rooms and male personnel are not to enter female change rooms.

### **Use, possession or supply of alcohol or drugs**

While running a program or service for children or young people, personnel must not:

- use, possess or be under the influence of an illegal drug
- use alcohol (other than the responsible and controlled use of sacramental wine during rituals requiring its use) or be under the influence of alcohol.
- be incapacitated by any other legal drug such as prescription or over-the-counter drugs
- supply alcohol or drugs (including tobacco) to children and young people participating in our programs other than the absolutely controlled and limited minimum use of sacramental wine during the rituals requiring its use.

Use of legal drugs other than alcohol is permitted, provided such use does not interfere with your ability to care for children involved in our service.

### **Transporting children**

Children and young people are to be transported only in circumstances that are directly related to the delivery of our program or service – for example, as part of an organised trip.

Children are to be transported only with prior authorisation from our Rabbi or nominated committee member and from the child's parent/guardian. Gaining approval involves providing information about the proposed journey, including:

- the form of transport proposed, such as private car, taxi, self-drive bus, bus with driver, train, plane or boat
- the reason for the journey
- the route to be followed, including any stops or side trips
- details of anyone who will be present during the journey other than our personnel who are involved in delivering our program or service.

7 August 2016

## Commitment to practice and behaviour guidelines

### Introduction

The Yeshivah Centre Synagogues incorporate the following three synagogues located at 88-92 Hotham Street, St Kilda East, 3183:

1. Yeshivah Shule,
2. Young Yeshivah; and
3. Kollel Menachem.

The Yeshivah Centre Synagogues is committed to safeguarding children and young people in its care. As part of this commitment, we have developed practice and behaviour guidelines for our organisation, guidelines that are approved and endorsed by Chabad Institutions Victoria Limited (CIVL) board of directors and adopted by each of the Yeshivah Centre Synagogues (by its Rabbi and committee members).

All our 'involved' personnel, from the Rabbi to casual employees and volunteers, are required to observe our practice and behaviour guidelines.

The CIVL board of directors considers a failure to observe our guidelines to be misconduct, and will result in appropriate disciplinary action. Depending on the seriousness of the misconduct, disciplinary action may include suspension while matters are investigated and/or dismissal. In addition to any internal disciplinary proceedings, any breaches of law will be reported to police.

### Commitment

I, \_\_\_\_\_

Name of staff member or volunteer

- have been provided with a copy, have read, and have understood the 'Practice and behaviour guidelines' of the Yeshivah Centre Synagogues
- understand my responsibilities in relation to ensuring and promoting the safety of children and young people
- will observe the guidelines during my employment/time with the Yeshivah Centre Synagogues to ensure and promote the safety of children and young people participating in programs and services provided by The Yeshivah Centre Synagogues.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of staff member or volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Yeshivah Centre Synagogue representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position/title representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of management representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date