

YMCA NORTH PARENT AND CARERS SAFEGUARDING POLICY



Purpose

YMCA North (referred to throughout this document as “the Y” or “YMCA”) is a not-for-profit organisation serving thousands of children, young people and their families via a range of settings, services and programmes. Whilst not exclusive these include:

- Childcare: Early Learning Centres, Before and After School Care, Holiday Programmes, Birthday Parties, Family Camps, etc.
- Outdoor Education: Camps
- Health and Fitness: Gyms, Group Exercise, Personal Training, etc.
- Sport and Recreation: Gymnastics, Swimming, Basketball, etc.
- Youth Services: Raise Up
- Accommodation

Application

This Policy applies to all parents and or carers of children and young people attending YMCA centres, programmes, services and offerings.

Background/Introduction

YMCA is committed to creating an environment where all its community can enjoy participation in our activities, events or programmes without experiencing abusive, insulting, threatening or other anti-social behaviour. Central to this are our core values of – Responsibility, Respect, Caring and Honesty.

Sadly, New Zealand continues to have shockingly high child abuse statistics. YMCA is keen to be part of the solution in changing this sad picture. Everyone working at YMCA has a RESPONSIBILITY for making sure children and young people in our care are safeguarded from:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse including grooming and exploitation
- Emotional abuse (sometimes known as psychological abuse) including bullying/cyberbullying
- Neglect
- Family Violence

We respect the rights of all children and young people’s to:

- Feel safe and be safe
- Feel and be comfortable in environments that are caring, nurturing and safe
- Develop and reach their full potential

Policy

Whilst also being a stand-alone policy document, this Parent and Carers Safeguarding Policy, is a sub policy of YMCA’s Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and interpretations should be in conjunction with this overarching policy.

Our vision is to build Strong Kids, Strong Families and Strong Communities hence caring about safeguarding. This is reflected in our safeguarding policies, procedures and our Safeguarding Code of Conduct. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Safeguarding Code of Conduct can be accessed via our website or in hard copy from Reception at any YMCA Centre.



The saying is 'it takes a village to raise a child' and we at YMCA honestly believe safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, hence needing all parents/carers and others associated with YMCA to help us with this objective.

Parent and Carer Guidelines

Be Part of YMCA's Safeguarding Culture.

- Observe these guidelines for and when necessary, politely and respectfully remind others of their obligations.
- Report any concerns or worries to YMCA Staff.
- Please do not enter YMCA areas without authorisation.
- Make sure no child/young person under 14 years is left unsupervised or left supervising others.
- Unless YMCA Staff have said it's ok to do so, help safeguard others by not taking any photos or videos.
- Abide by any requests from YMCA Staff, including any requests to modify behaviour.
- Promote inclusivity by respecting diversity and people's differences, helping to make everyone feel welcome and valued.
- Remember the Y does not tolerate and will respond to any person(s) demonstrating verbally or physically aggressive/threatening behaviour, particularly when in the vicinity of children/young people.

Help YMCA Services and Programmes

- Abide by booking and cancellation requirements, ensuring children are collected/dropped off and signing in/out processes are completed.
- Remember YMCA will only release a child/young person to those people identified as being authorised by a parent/carer. To help keep children safe, YMCA staff may ask for ID and all authorisations must be in writing.
- YMCA can assist children with medication needs however, to make sure this is done as safely as possible, this must be in accordance with YMCA's medication requirements.
- It's great when kids have everything they need for the day and it's clearly labelled (we have lots of children!) e.g., lunch/snacks, refillable drink bottle, sunhat/raincoat, SPF 30+ sunscreen, etc.

Support Positive Parent/Carer Engagement

- Children/young people love it when you see/cheer their achievements, trust us, they notice when you don't! Be present in encouraging and supporting their participation.
- If children/young people make mistakes or don't perform as they/you would have wished, remind them it's all part of the learning process and keep the support/guidance empowering.
- Role model good sportsmanship, acknowledge good play by all players/teams and accept official decisions.

Please be advised serious or ongoing breaches of these guidelines will not be tolerated. Those who breach our guidelines risk being asked to leave and being prohibited from attending future events. In rare and extreme circumstances, to support the management of any breaches, YMCA may be required to notify external services e.g., Police.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. Please show your support in keeping children and young people safe in abiding by the Parent/Carer Guidelines.



Policy Amendments

YMCA is entitled to amend and vary this policy from time to time at YMCA’s sole discretion and all employees are required to observe such amended policy.

Creation Date: April 2017	Date Reviewed: Dec 2022	Next Review Date: Feb 2024 <i>Note – the default frequency is every 2 years unless otherwise required</i>
Owner: Safeguarding	Approved by: Julian Baldey, CEO and Chair of Safeguarding Governance Group  Signed: Date: December 2022	
Document Control: Original signed document is approved. No unauthorised copies. Reviews of this policy will include input from the Safeguarding Governance Group		

Tracking Changes

	Reviewed by who and when	What was Changed	Version #
Written:	Safeguarding, 2017	Document created	1
Amendments:	Safeguarding	ACF endorsement of policy	2
	Safeguarding Manager, Sep 2018	Internal review of document	3
	Safeguarding Manager, Feb 2020	ACF reaccreditation	4
	Safeguarding Manager, Dec 2022	Biennial review, along with amendments to reflect new branding Reference added to being sub policy of main Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy	5