

# I Teaching Iyengar Yoga in the UK 2: General Teaching and Ethical Guidelines – “The Teachers’ Handbook”

## I11c Behaviour Guidelines for those Teaching Children

Children should never experience abuse or inappropriate behaviour of any kind. IY (UK) has a responsibility to ensure that Iyengar yoga teachers promote the welfare of children and young people and keep them safe.

Teachers act in a position of trust. They may be seen as role models by children and young people, and must act in an appropriate manner at all times.

All teachers of children’s classes in the UK are required to have an up-to-date DBS check or the equivalent. Please refer to “DBS Requirements for Teachers”, in the Documents section of the IY (UK) website, for more information about DBS checks.

When working with children and young people, it is important to:

Listen to and respect children at all times

Avoid favouritism

Treat children and young people fairly and without prejudice and discrimination

Value and take children’s contributions seriously

Ensure contact with children and young people is appropriate

Always ensure language is appropriate and not offensive or discriminatory; language used to describe body parts should be appropriate to students’ age and development.

Always ensure equipment is used safely

Respect a young person’s right to personal privacy

Recognise that special caution is required when you are discussing sensitive issues with children or young people

### **You must not:**

Patronise or treat children and young people as if they are silly

Allow allegations to go unreported

Develop inappropriate relationships

Conduct a sexual relationship with a child or young person or indulge in any form of sexual contact with a child or young person, this represents a serious breach of trust and is not acceptable under any circumstances

Let children and young people have your personal contact details (mobile number or address) Make sarcastic, insensitive, derogatory or sexually suggestive comments or gestures to or in front of children and young people

Act in a way that can be perceived as threatening or intrusive

Make inappropriate promises to children and young people, particularly in relation to confidentiality

Jump to conclusions about others without checking the facts

Either exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues  
Rely on your reputation or that of any organisation to protect you  
Adopt an attitude of complacency with regard to your own conduct

The NSPCC has an excellent “Child protection resource pack”, available on their website, with detailed information about dealing with allegations, types of abuse, bullying, and identifying children who may be in need of help. There are also guidelines and suggested procedures to follow should you have child protection concerns.

If as a teacher you become aware of abusive behaviour towards children by another teacher you should report such behaviour to IY (UK). If you have concerns that a child or young person is being abused it may be appropriate to contact the NSPCC Helpline (0808 800 5000) or your local authority children’s social care department.

Membership and Ethics & Appeals Committees February 2017