

Code of behaviour for children & young people

This code sets out the behaviour that is expected of young people when attending and using the facilities of Mentoring Plus. It has been shaped by the views of young people.

Purpose

To ensure children and young people are treated fairly by all adults working with them at Mentoring Plus and know what is expected of them.

Basic principles

This code of behaviour for children and young people is intended to:

- identify acceptable behaviour for children and young people
- promote self-respect and self-control
- raise children's and young people's self esteem and self confidence
- encourage individual responsibility for behaviour and outline the consequences of poor behaviour
- encourage children and young people to recognise and respect the rights of others
- encourage cooperation at all times and in all situations
- promote the values of honesty, fairness and respect
- anticipate and resolve any conflict that may arise
- ensure that children and young people are aware of when sanctions will be made.

Dos and don'ts

In all communications (face to face or remotely) with all members of Mentoring Plus (staff, freelancers, volunteers and young people) children and young people are supported to:

- treat staff and volunteers with respect
- co-operate with each other
- join in
- be friendly
- listen to each other
- respect each other's differences
- be helpful

- behave appropriately, safely and with respect when using any electronic communications media
- have good manners
- follow this code of behaviour, the requirements in their mentoring agreements and all other relevant rules
- report anything that worries or concerns them to the relevant practitioner.

In all communications (face to face or remotely) with all members of Mentoring Plus (staff, freelancers, volunteers and young people) children and young people are discouraged from:

- picking on or belittling each other
- bullying each other
- yelling or shouting at anyone
- being abusive or threatening
- using equipment to be abusive or to cyberbully – for example, by using mobile phones to send nasty messages, taking and sharing photos without permission, sending nasty emails, or ‘trolling’ (leaving unkind comments on a webpage or social network profile).

If children and young people are unclear on any of the issues contained in this document they should speak to a member of Mentoring Plus (staff, freelancer or volunteer) for guidance.

Breach of this code of conduct

This code of conduct is only useful if it forms part of a process for guiding children and young people to receive appropriate support.

It is the responsibility of the relevant Practitioner to ensure that all children and young people attending Mentoring Plus activities are informed of this code of conduct and to confirm with them that they have seen, understood and aspire to follow it. Children and young people must also be made aware of the consequences if they breach the code.

Participants who cause significant upset to other service users may be removed from group activities. Staff, freelancers and mentors will then ensure the removed participant understands the reason for this action, and support them to address their behaviour in order that they can return to this or future group sessions.

Use of child protection procedures

If staff or freelancers at Mentoring Plus become concerned that a child’s behaviour suggests either that they may be at risk of significant harm or that they may present a risk of significant harm to other children, Mentoring Plus’ child protection procedures will be followed and a referral may be made to the local authority children’s social care department.

Such a referral would be discussed with the child, school (or other referrer) and their family at the earliest possible opportunity, except in situations where this would possibly endanger a child’s safety or interfere with a police investigation.