

Code of Ethics for Rivendell Buddhist Retreat Centre

This code follows the framework of the Buddha's five ethical precepts - widely known throughout the Buddhist world - offering a general principle for each and specific application.

The precepts can be applied to all areas of human behaviour. This code is mainly intended to offer principles in one key area: where Order members or other, more experienced members of the Triratna community are presenting and communicating Buddhist values to those who have less experience of Buddhist practice within the context of Triratna. It is to be applied especially in public situations, where a particular duty of care is owed.

1

***I undertake the training principle of abstention from harming living beings.
With deeds of loving-kindness I purify my body.***

In principle, all Triratna activities aim to support the awakening of the individual for the benefit of all beings. In all our dealings we aspire to behave in a spirit of kindness, expressing *kalyana mitrata*, which we translate as 'spiritual friendship'.

Our spiritual community has been defined by its founder, Sangharakshita, as a 'free association of individuals'. Therefore, it is important that individuals in positions of trust and authority as members of the Triratna Buddhist Community do not misuse their trusted position, influence or authority – real or perceived - for their own benefit or to influence others inappropriately.

Wishing to minimise the harm we do to living beings, we affirm that physical violence and other aggressive behaviour has no place among us.

Rivendell is a vegan-friendly and vegetarian environment and we will work within our community, and with other like-minded groups, to reduce and minimise our impact on the environment, locally and internationally.

2

***I undertake the training principle of abstention from taking the not given.
With open-handed generosity, I purify my body.***

We wish to offer the Buddha's teachings in a spirit of generosity, making them accessible to all.

We aspire to express generosity by caring for our community and those who work and practise within it, finding ways to support those who undertake particular responsibilities in teaching and administration or serving as trustees or council members.

Those who handle money, property or other resources for Rivendell are in a position of stewardship and do so for the benefit of the Centre. They will take care of them and avoid their deliberate misuse or misappropriation. If misuse is suspected, we will investigate and take action promptly.

3

***I undertake the training principle of abstention from sexual misconduct.
With stillness, simplicity and contentment I purify my body.***

Triratna is a community of people practising the Buddha's teachings together, with a strong emphasis on the centrality of *kalyana mitrata* (spiritual friendship).

People in teaching or supporting roles or with other positions of responsibility within the Sangha have particular responsibility in this area. They have a duty of care in respect to their conduct and

position and to have due regard both to the precepts and to the legal requirements of safeguarding policies.

We therefore regard that it is not appropriate for those leading and supporting retreats at Rivendell to enter into a sexual relationship with those attending.

4

I undertake the training principle of abstention from false speech.

With truthful communication, I purify my speech.

In all our dealings we are committed to truthful, meaningful, helpful and harmonious communication, written or spoken.

We wish to create an atmosphere of friendliness, co-operation and trust. We will communicate carefully, motivated by desire for the wellbeing and spiritual progress of others.

We encourage ethical reflection, disclosure and confession in our community, but respect that this happens in its own time and at its own pace.

We note that confession may offer no protection from the law. Illegal activity disclosed in the context of confession may have to be reported to the relevant authorities.

5

I undertake the training principle of abstention from intoxication.

With mindfulness clear and radiant I purify my mind.

The Triratna Buddhist Community aims to provide support for the development of wisdom and compassion through deepening awareness.

We aspire to engage with our practice and with each other with as much mindfulness as possible.

We provide supportive conditions for those wishing to live without intoxicants therefore we will not serve alcohol or other intoxicants at retreats or events at Rivendell.