Aikido Victoria
(Aiki-Kai) Inc.
Part of the National Aikido Association of Australia
The first, and largest, Aikido association in Australia
Offically recognised by the Aikido World Headquarters

CHILD SAFETY
A Guide for Parents, Guardians & Carers

Aikido Victoria's Commitment to Child Safety

Every person in the Aikido Victoria community has a responsibility to understand their role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care.

Aikido Victoria is committed to promoting and protecting the rights of children and preventing abuse from occurring by fostering a culture where children feel safe and empowered.

We also seek to ensure the cultural safety of First Nations children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability.

Three Important Messages

1. Aikido should be fun, safe and enjoyable.

2. Children and young people should never feel uncomfortable around others in Aikido, particularly adults.

3. If you or the child/young person that you care for don't feel safe or comfortable, it's **OK to speak up**.

We want children and young people to tell an adult that they trust – whether that's you, their Mum, Dad, guardian, carer, someone in your family, instructor, assistant instructor, children's instructor, Ruihong (our Child Safe Officer), or another member of Aikido Victoria.

Aikido Victoria's Commitment to You

We will do our best to make sure that children and young people are protected from harm.

We will try to make sure that children and young people **are never alone** with officials, adult instructors, assistant instructors, children's instructors, other students, other parents, guardians or carers, spectators or volunteers where they can't be seen by other adults.

We will ensure there are sufficient instructors and assistant instructors to conduct every class.

We will ensure that adult students, other parents, guardians or carers, volunteers, instructors, assistant instructors, children's instructors or officials **operate within their role**.

What Does This Mean:

1. No one is permitted to look after your children/young people or visit them at your home unless they have the written permission from you - their Parent(s), Guardian or Carer.
2. No one is permitted to "friend" children and young people on social media, take photos or footage of them for social media (like Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok, YouTube or any other platform) unless they are doing this through official Aikido Victoria communication channels. This will only be done during official state events, where we would have collected a digital consent form from you before the event.
3. No one in Aikido Victoria is permitted to transport children and young people anywhere, including to and from training, their home, or public transport, unless they have written permission from you.

If you feel like something's not right, it's **OK to speak up!**

We will report any incidents of abuse or neglect towards children and young people involved in Aikido.

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Your Responsibilities at Aikido

When you are involved in Aikido as a parent, guardian or carer, you also have some responsibilities. These include:

- Providing accurate and true information about your child/young person to the best of your knowledge so that instructors and others can better support them in their Aikido training.
- Letting an instructor, assistant instructor, or the child safe officer know if your child/young person is not feeling well or feeling unsafe.
- Treating other students and adults with respect.
- Following the rules when participating in Aikido classes, e.g. 'never alone' rule.
- Listening to others and respecting their opinions.
- Ask the instructor first for permission before taking any private-use photos, videos or reels/digital media of your own child/young person under your care.
- Only take photos, videos or reels of your own children/young people under your care.
- Ensure your child/young person does not attend training if they are sick or with cold/flu/COVID-like symptoms.
- Ensure your child/young person has authorized collection/pick-up arrangements.

Your Child or Young Person's Rights

All children and young people involved in Aikido should:

- Feel comfortable.
- Feel safe.
- Have the right to contact their friends, parents/guardians or others if they feel unsafe, uncomfortable or distressed at any time when they are involved in Aikido classes.
- Be provided with clear directions and given the chance to positively change their behaviour if Aikido Victoria officials, instructors, assistant instructors, children's instructors or volunteers believe that they have broken any rules or policies or that they have misbehaved.
- NOT be subject to feedback during training that could be considered cruel, frightening, humiliating, or like they are being put down either verbally or physically; and
- Contribute suggestions or feedback about aikido training.

What to do if you have concerns:

- If at any stage, you or your child/young person feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried, you should inform an instructor, Child Safe Officer, Member Protection Officer or Area Representative in Aikido Victoria know what has happened – we all want to support you.
- All you need to do is tell someone about what happened, and they will do their best to make sure that you feel safe and protected from harm.
- If you don't know who else to talk to, contact the Child Safe Officer: Ruihong Lu on email: childsafe@aikidomelbourne.org.au or on the phone: 0423623111