



Mentor Code of Conduct

The aim of this Code of Conduct is to ensure that mentors are clear about their boundaries and responsibilities as mentors in our mentoring programs. While participation in this program is voluntary, there are still expectations about conduct that need to be made explicit.

Confidentiality and privacy

Only reveal personal information about your mentee with their permission and only give information on a need to know basis. Always ask yourself whether other people need to know things about your mentee or whether it is gossip. It's fine to tell other people general information about the program and that you are working with a young mentee, but inappropriate to share personal information about another person's life without their permission. A rule of thumb would be never to mention your mentee's name.

Time spent – mentor self-care

The program has an expectation that you will meet once a week in school term time with your mentee. We ask that a minimum of one hour is spent at each session. Mentors are discouraged from spending long periods of time with their mentee that might impact adversely on their own life.

Appropriate mentoring activities

Always check that the mentee is genuinely interested in activities you might suggest. Be aware and conscious that you choose discussions which are relevant to the mentee, rather than your own personal interest.

Respect differences and appropriate discussion

One of the objectives of the program is to facilitate discussion and source information about topics relevant to the mentee's goals and objectives. It is not appropriate for instance to engage in debate or criticism of religion, cultural habits, sexual orientation or political alliances. The aim of this experience is sharing rather than making judgements about another person's life, experiences and beliefs.

Exchange of contact details

There is normally no requirement for the exchange of contact details between the mentor and mentee in our School program, as all contact is conducted through the school, in school time and on school premises. If a mentor needs to contact their mentee outside of their allocated mentoring time, this should be arranged via the Program Coordinator and/or the school contact. Within our Bump program, contact details may be exchanged within our communications policy to ensure confidentiality and that there be no imposition on the private time of our mentors, or mentees.

Money and gifts

Mentors will not loan or give money or other items beyond small gifts to mentees. Such small gifts would only be a gesture or token, such as a wishing stone, or heartfelt card. If a mentor wishes to make a monetary or physical donation to an organisation which their mentee is involved with, they should contact the Young Love Foundation directly.

Referral and community resources

If your mentee has an issue or problem you may need to refer them to an appropriate service or professional. Mentors are volunteers who are not expected to counsel or assess the mentee situation. Please speak to your Program Coordinator if you need further advice on appropriate referral.

Location and privacy of mentoring

Mentors will conduct their face-to-face mentoring sessions on public premises, such as high schools, TAFE grounds, parks or cafes and will always be in full view of other people while maintaining a certain level of privacy for discussion to take place comfortably. If mentors are concerned about abuse or child protection issues they should immediately contact their Program Coordinator or management.

Mentor Support

If a mentor has any concerns or needs to speak about ethical or conduct issues they should speak to their Program Coordinator or Young Love management. Attending weekly or regular debriefing meetings is an important part of the program and most issues should be discussed here unless they are urgent or of a considerably confidential nature.

I have read and agree to follow the conduct outlined above:

Signed by _____

Name of Mentor _____

Date _____

This Mentor Code of Conduct was written by the Young Love Foundation specifically for the School Program and the Bump Program in November 2008