

The Essex Association of Change Ringers

Founded 1879

President: The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Chelmsford



Safeguarding Statement

The Essex Association of Church Bellringers (EACR) takes its safeguarding responsibilities seriously, believing that all ringers should feel safe and valued while involved in all aspects of bellringing.

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. The welfare of a child, young person or an adult at risk is at all times paramount and takes precedence over all other considerations.

The EACR will seek to support the ringing community in its area to develop best practice in safeguarding by:

1. providing advice to ringers around the policies and processes advised by CCCBR and the Diocese of Chelmsford Safeguarding Team,
2. publishing clear guidelines of how to respond to concerns or allegations,
3. developing a relationship with the Diocese of Chelmsford and other relevant bodies in order that ringers and ringing can be properly represented when church policy is formed or revised,
4. encouraging all ringers to promote a positive safeguarding culture where everyone is treated with respect and dignity,
5. applying these principles to its own activities and the welfare of its members by:
 - encouraging the implementation of robust safeguarding policies & procedures; and
 - encouraging all ringers to undertake the training required by the Church of England Safeguarding learning and development framework, as directed by PSOs.

To this end, the EACR will appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Safeguarding Officer who, together with the Trustees of the EACR, will address the above in co-operation with the Diocese of Chelmsford Safeguarding Team, Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) and others (the EACR recognises that its boundary extends beyond the Diocese of Chelmsford and that neighbouring Diocese requirements may apply in some towers).

Policy

The EACR as advised by the CCCBR follows the 'Promoting a Safer Church' policy as adopted by the Diocese of Chelmsford, as implemented through Parishes via the 'Parish Safeguarding Handbook' and as applicable to a membership organisation.

- Local tower arrangements should always be approved by the PCC in line with the Parish Safeguarding Policy. The Tower Captain should have a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy and ensure that ringers have access to it.
- All ringers should complete the online safeguarding training course 'Basic Awareness' as advised by the PSO or Incumbent for the tower where they are members.
- In addition to the 'Basic Awareness' course, IF your role involves work with children, young people or vulnerable adults you should complete the online course 'Foundations'. In practice it is advised that all ringers should complete both courses so as not to preclude ringing with young ringers.
- Tower Captains and ringing teachers should complete the online safeguarding training course 'Leadership (compressed pathway)' when advised by the PSO or Incumbent for the tower where they are members.
- All training requirements may be accessed through <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/online-training>.
- All Tower Captains and ringing teachers MUST hold a current clear DBS check status IF their role includes the training of children or vulnerable adults.

A ringer does NOT require a DBS check if acting in a supporting role, undertaking unplanned one-off teaching or deputising in an emergency, providing two adults (preferably one male and one female) are present, nor for transporting children or vulnerable adults as part of arrangements between families.

Where there is cause for concern, this should be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer or Incumbent immediately.