

Safeguarding Policy

The Essex Association of Change Ringers (EACR)

V1.0 February 2026

Purpose and Scope

The Essex Association of Change Ringers (EACR, “the Association”) is a volunteer led membership organisation and registered charity. The objects of the Association are:

- a) To further the work of the Church by the ringing of bells and to promote all aspects of the same;
- b) The advancement of the education of the public in the art and science of bell ringing, by promoting and encouraging the practice of bellringing and by supporting the recruitment, training and development of bellringers.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who receive the Association services from harm. This includes the children of adults who use our services;
- to provide members, as well as children and young people and their families, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to all members of the Association when engaged in Association events and work. Most bellringing is arranged for and by the church (e.g. service ringing and local practice nights) and does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Association. Whilst this policy statement applies only to activities of the Association, there can be considerable overlap on occasion and advice on ringing under church jurisdiction is also provided.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England. A summary of the key legislation and guidance is available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees>. As a registered charity, we must adhere to this legislation and guidance.

Supporting Documents

The Association has adopted the suite of Policy and Practice Guidance provided by the National Safeguarding Team for the Church of England, which should be read alongside this policy statement. The Association will also refer to the Central Council of Church Bellringers Safeguarding Policy and associated documents where there are gaps in Church of England guidance.

This policy statement is supported by these documents:

- [Role description for the Association Safeguarding Officer](#)
- [Standard of Conduct for EACR Members](#)
- [CCCBR Advice](#) on dealing with disclosures and concerns about a child, young person or vulnerable adult
- [CCCBR Responding Promptly to a Safeguarding Allegation](#)
- [EACR Privacy Statement](#)
- [EACR Complaints policy](#)
- [EACR Managing Concerns Policy](#)
- [EACR Health and Safety guidance](#)
- [EACR Rules](#)
- [CCCBR Safeguarding Guide](#)
- [CCCBR Good Practice for Maintaining and Safe Environment in the Belfry for Children and Young People](#)

We believe that:

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.

We recognise that:

- the welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take
- working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare
- all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse
- some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- extra safeguards may be needed to keep children who are additionally vulnerable safe from abuse.

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

- adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through the Church of England Policy and Practice Guidance provided by the National Safeguarding Team as adopted by the Diocese of Chelmsford, as well as our policies and procedures. Local tower arrangements should always be approved by the PCC;
- providing advice to ringers around the policies and processes advised by CCCBR and the Diocese of Chelmsford Safeguarding Team;
- publishing clear guidelines of how to respond to concerns or allegations;
- 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;
- encouraging all ringers to promote a positive safeguarding culture where everyone is treated with respect and dignity;
- 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;
- appointing a Safeguarding Officer who, together with the Trustees of the Association, 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);
- valuing, listening to and respecting children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- providing effective management for members through support, training and quality assurance measures;
- recruiting and selecting officers and trustees safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made;
- recording and storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance;
- sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families;
- making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern;
- using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately;

- using our procedures to manage any allegations against members appropriately;
- creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise;
- ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place;
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for all members, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance;
- building a safeguarding culture where members, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.

Contact Details:

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CCCBR Safeguarding Officer

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Version control - Approval and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

| Version No | Approved By | Approval Date | Main Changes | Review Period |
|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | Management Committee | February 2026 | | 1 year |