

THE CLERICAL GUILD OF RINGERS

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Maintaining a Safe Environment for Young People and Adults
with Care and Support Needs



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BACKGROUND

The background to this policy is supported by a range of national and Church legislation and guidance. Full details are available in the CCCBR document Safeguarding – A Guide for Bellringers 2019, available on the CCCBR website

It should be noted that the Church includes “vulnerable adults” in their policies. The official definition of a vulnerable adult, or an adult at risk, is a person over the age of 18 who is unable to take care of him or herself OR unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation. This is unlikely to apply to many, if any, ringers but ringing must take seriously its responsibilities to ensure the wellbeing of all ringers.

1 OPERATIONS OF THE GUILD

The Guild is non-territorial and does not normally arrange local ringing for church services..

The Guild has no affiliated towers and is therefore dependent on permission by the owning authorities to allow ringing to take place. This is predominantly the Church of England, whose powers of control are delegated to the individual Parochial Church Council (PCC). The Guild does not undertake face-to-face training of young people at local level.

This Safeguarding Policy applies to those occasions where the Guild arranges events which gives rise to opportunity for close relationships to be established between adults and young people or adults at risk

2 GUILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

1. The Guild is committed to the safeguarding of children under 18 and, where appropriate, adults at risk, and ensuring their well-being.
2. The Guild has a responsibility to prevent all forms of abuse, neglect or bullying of such children or adults at risk.
3. The Guild undertakes to exercise due diligence in the appointment and selection of those who work closely with children or adults at risk.
4. The Guild will follow guidelines issued by the church authorities and meet such civil legal requirements as may be in force.

3 SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

- The Guild will appoint an officer with lead responsibility for safeguarding
- The Safeguarding Officer(s) will report to the Guild Standing Committee
- The Guild will keep a register of attendance at all Guild events
- The Guild will carry out a risk assessment to identify those events and activities where the presence of a person or persons who have completed diocesan safeguarding training and/or are DBS checked is necessary or desirable. A list of such persons will be kept in a secure manner for the event concerned
- At least two adults will be present at any Guild event where young or vulnerable people are present, preferably one of each gender, and at least one to be DBS checked
- Where young people under the age of 18 are present at Guild events, written consent should be obtained from a parent. Where a parent is present, then the parent is responsible for their own child
- Unless undertaken as a private arrangement, the transport of young people to a Guild activity will involve a DBS checked driver and, wherever possible, a second adult present.
- Any still or video images of young people at a Guild event, when not taken by a parent, should have the written consent of all people included under the age of 18 and of their parents. No photography should be used for commercial purposes

4 RAISING CONCERNS AND HANDLING ALLEGATIONS

- The Guild will deal sympathetically with any complaints of abuse and immediately advise the appropriate authorities. This will normally be the local Parish and Diocesan Safeguarding Officers where an event is taking place.

- If the young or vulnerable person is considered to be in immediate danger the police will be notified immediately by dialling 999
- In the handling of any safeguarding issue, those involved must ensure that any information is kept confidential in line with the handling of sensitive data under data protection legislation

5 KNOWN OFFENDERS

- A known offender may be able to take part in Guild activities depending upon (a) the nature of their offence, (b) any court restrictions on their activities, (c) perceived risk and (d) the level of supervision that can be afforded.
- Any decision to accommodate such a person will be taken seriously and have due regard to the absolute safety of young and vulnerable people and the reassurance of parents and carers. A written agreement must be obtained, this generally between the individual, the parish and the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

6 WHISTLEBLOWING

- The Guild is committed to being open, honest and accountable and encourages the raising of concerns regarding failure to protect children or adults at risk
- Any concerns should be referred to the Guild President
- Following further enquiries, individual feedback on the progress and outcome of any investigation will be given wherever possible

7 REVIEW OF POLICY

- This policy will be kept under review and subject to regular updating, in any event not less than every 4 years

Review Date Reviewed by Agreed by GCR Standing Committee : 23 November 2027

Date 23 November 2023