

The Middlesex County Association & London Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES ON SAFEGUARDING

These Guidelines have been prepared for members of the Association and in particular those who teach children to ring. Reference has been made to advice issued by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

It is very important that all those who have dealings with children take the issue of Safeguarding seriously:

- a) to ensure that children are protected from abuse,
- b) to ensure that adults working with children do not put themselves in compromising situations.

The law defines 'child' as a person under the age of 18 for most purposes.

The Association recommends that its members who have dealings with children should:

- invite parents/ guardians to watch a training session before allowing their child to learn to ring.
- obtain parents/ guardians written permission for the child to ring by completing the 'Safeguarding – Permission to Ring' form from the website.
- point out that parents/ guardians are responsible for delivering children to and collecting them from the tower.
- call the emergency services on 999 if there is a child who is believed to be at immediate risk of harm and then inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Afterwards inform the General Secretary.
- contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for advice if you have any concerns about the behaviour of an adult ringer. Afterwards inform the General Secretary.
- keep an attendance register so records exist of who was present at any given time.
- ensure that there are two adults present (preferably one of each gender) whenever children are ringing or being transported.
- ensure children are supervised and only allow them into hazardous locations such as the bell chamber when accompanied by at least two authorised adults.
- ensure that any touching is only appropriate for teaching and /or in an emergency. A child's personal space should be protected by all present.
- follow relevant health & safety procedures and ensure first aid is available.
- have a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy. Compliance requires that those teaching have been checked by the Disclosure & Barring Service system.
- be aware of the insurance position for children,
- prominently display a copy of these guidelines in every tower (a laminated copy is available from District Secretaries).