

LACR Safeguarding Policy

The Lancashire Association of Change Ringers (LACR) is committed to working in accordance with the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding and Church of England policy and practice, alongside policy and practice from the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency and the Unitarian Safeguarding Statement.

All participants have a responsibility under this policy.

What is Safeguarding?

The LACR is committed to the safeguarding of children under 18 and, where appropriate, adults at risk/vulnerable adults, from all forms of abuse, neglect or bullying.

The LACR will endeavour to promote and maintain a safe environment where children and vulnerable adults will be safe from harm or abuse. This includes taking all reasonable measures to create a framework where people are confident to undertake activities in which the risks of harm or abuse are minimised and, where there are welfare concerns, taking appropriate actions to address those concerns.

Safeguarding Advice

Individual Tower Duties

Tower Captains, Tower Secretaries and those who teach ringing should familiarise themselves with their own church Safeguarding practices and policies. This will be based on the relevant Diocesan policy which explains that the Incumbent, Churchwardens and PCC of any parish have a legal and primary duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance laid down across all areas of Church activities.

As part of this duty, they will need to ensure that all relevant individuals have been recruited and appropriately vetted through the DBS checking process and participate in safeguarding training. Churches also have a duty to maintain a safe environment for all people in the Tower and elsewhere on Church premises alongside the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

It is important that there is a good working relationship between the Tower Captain and Church officers.

We recommend that you download, print out, laminate and display on your Tower notice board the Church of England Safeguarding Poster or the appropriate Catholic or Unitarian Safeguarding equivalent.

Accessing Safeguarding Training

All Tower Captains and Officers, and LACR Officers, are required to undertake the Blackburn Diocese Safeguarding Training (or the Safeguarding Training from their own Diocese if not Blackburn). As a minimum this includes the Basic and Foundation levels (previously known as C0 and C1). Tower Captains and those involved in ringing training are also required to complete the Leadership training (previously known as C2). The LACR Safeguarding Officer is

required to complete all three levels. Individual ringers should complete the Basic level training as a minimum.

[Safeguarding Training | The Diocese of Blackburn](#)

Arranging LACR Events

Any event arranged and promoted as an LACR event (eg. LACR and Branch ringing meetings, striking competitions, tours, social activities) should be supported by a risk assessment which considers any safeguarding risks to children, young people and vulnerable adults. An example/template of a risk assessment tool is provided for your use and should be used to ensure that we create and maintain an environment which is safe for all and promotes well-being, prevents abuse and creates nurturing, caring conditions. In completing the risk assessment please consider:

- The number, age and abilities, vulnerability of those attending
- Physical hazards (eg. access, security)
- How the event will operate (eg. transport arrangements, availability of leaders who are DBS checked)
- The protection of personal information in line with GDPR regulations.

Securing Parental Consent

Parents of children under 18 attending a LACR ringing or social event must complete a Parental Consent and Emergency Permission Form. A copy of the form is available to download.

Unless otherwise advised by the Parent/Guardian, the permission given on the form will remain valid for subsequent LACR events for 2 years from the date of initial consent. If any details change the Parent/Guardian must advise the appropriate event co-ordinator by filling in a replacement form.

No child or young person will be permitted to take part in an event unless this consent has been received or unless a parent/guardian is in attendance.

Safeguarding Concerns

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or who presents a risk to others please seek advice from your Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) or Diocesan Safeguarding Team if the PSO is not available. If you believe someone is at immediate risk of harm please contact the Police on 101 without delay.

Safeguarding Officers include:

- Your local Parish Safeguarding Officer or incumbent
- Blackburn Diocesan SO – Catherine Smith 07711 485170
catherine.smith@blackburn.anglican.org
- Blackburn Diocesan Assistant SO – Sophie Booth 07468 971759
sophie.booth@blackburn.anglican.org

Other Sources of Advice

For advice specific to church bell ringing and safeguarding resources, please go to:

[Safeguarding – CCCBR](#)

[Safeguarding in Church of England Settings – CCCBR](#)

For Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance and other safeguarding resources, please go to:

[Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance](#)

For Roman Catholic Safeguarding Policies, Guidance and other safeguarding resources, please go to:

catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

For the Unitarian Safeguarding Statement and Policy, please go to:

[Safeguarding - The Unitarians](#)

Review of Safeguarding Policy

The policy will be reviewed every 3 years as a minimum. Web links/embedded documents to be checked annually to ensure they still work.

Useful Documents

[CofE Safeguarding Poster](#)

[CofE Model Risk Assessment Template](#)

[Model Registration and Consent Form](#)

[Example Photography and Filming Consent Form](#)

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