



KCACR Safeguarding Policy and Statement

Promoting a Safer Ringing Environment

February 2025

1 Adoption

- 1.1 This Safeguarding Statement was agreed by the General Committee of the KCACR (“the Association”) on 22nd February 2025.

2 Definitions

- 2.1 An **Adult At Risk of Harm (or Adult At Risk)** means a person aged 18 or over whose ability to protect themselves from violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation is significantly impaired (through physical or mental disability or illness, old age, emotional fragility or distress, or otherwise) whether temporarily or indefinitely.¹
- 2.2 A **Child** is someone under the age of 18 years.
- 2.3 **Safeguarding** involves keeping Children and Adults At Risk safe from abuse or neglect, irrespective of their personal characteristics

3 Principles

- 3.1 The Association **recognises** the serious issues caused by the abuse of Children and Adults at Risk, whether this takes the form of bullying or physical, emotional, sexual, financial, discriminatory, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect.
- 3.2 The Association’s **aim** is that all its activities:
- a) offer all participants, regardless of their personal characteristics, a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe and welcoming environment; and
 - b) take place in a culture where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

4 Policy

- 4.1 The Association acknowledges its duty to promote the Safeguarding of all Children and Adults at Risk with whom it comes into contact. It will take all appropriate measures to ensure that both it and its members fulfil this duty in accordance with the law and best practice.
- 4.2 **The Association will:**
- a) **Arrange training and give advice** so that all Association members can confidently recognise and respond to potential Safeguarding concerns

¹ This policy adopts the same definition as that employed for of “vulnerable adult” set out in paragraph 6 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016

- b) **Carefully select** those with responsibility for Children and Adults at Risk in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records checks via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
- c) **Organise** its activities to avoid the risk of harm to those participating
- d) **Put in place Safeguarding measures** where individuals pose a Safeguarding risk.
- e) **Maintain confidentiality** to protect the safety of all unless disclosing information that will avoid harm.
- f) **Empower** Children and Adults at Risk to make their own decisions and give informed consent as far as possible without putting their safety at risk.
- g) **Encourage** all to raise potential Safeguarding concerns, giving clear points of contact.
- h) **Abide by** the local Safeguarding policies of any church or organisation whose facilities the Association uses.
- i) **Respond** promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation., working in partnership with the police, local authorities and other relevant organisations where necessary
- j) **Report** all concerns that reach the threshold for reporting to the statutory authorities (including the Disclosure & Barring Service, police and/or local authority)
- k) **Support** any individual raising a Safeguarding concern
- l) **Deal with** disregard of this Policy on the part of an Association member swiftly and robustly up to and including expulsion
- m) **Appoint** a named member of its General Committee to take the lead responsibility for Safeguarding matters, including the maintenance of this Policy
- n) **Appoint** a Safeguarding Officer, who shall have been cleared to the level of a DBS Enhanced Check with Children and Adults barred lists, to implement this Policy and supervise the Association's Safeguarding procedures
- o) **Keep** full and confidential records of all Safeguarding concerns raised and actions taken

4.3 Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and all members of the Association have a responsibility to uphold effective Safeguarding practices.

4.4 **Society members will:**

- a) **Abide by** the Code for Ringing published by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers copied below or link: <https://cccbr.org.uk/bellringing/code-for-ringing/>
- b) **Undertake** Safeguarding training appropriate to their role in the Association.
- c) **Know how** to recognise a potential Safeguarding concern, responding to any concerns promptly in accordance with this Statement and the Association's established procedures

5 What is Abuse and Neglect

- 5.1 **Abuse** is any action that hurts or injures another person either through deliberate action or through neglect. This can be intentional or unintentional: if the behaviour hurts or harms another, then abuse has occurred. Abuse may manifest in a variety of ways, including:
- a) Physical or sexual
 - b) Emotional (e.g. humiliation, isolation either in person or online)
 - c) Bullying
 - d) Financial (e.g. theft of money/assets, extortion, predatory marriage)
 - e) Domestic

- f) Discriminatory

- 5.2 **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of individual's health or development. This may include:
- a) ignoring medical, physical or emotional care needs
 - b) failing to provide access to health, care and support or educational services
 - c) withholding necessities of life, such as food, medication and heating
 - d) self-neglect (such as neglecting your personal hygiene, health or surroundings or hoarding).

6 Code for Ringing

- 6.1 Every ringer, ringing leader and ringing society plays their part in creating a safe, welcoming environment and in representing ringing to both church and public. This checklist summarises the values of the ringing community and its expectations of all who ring, in their interactions with other ringers and when representing ringing at large.

6.2 ALWAYS

- a) Create a tower environment where all feel safe, respected, welcomed and valued
- b) Create a positive learning environment where feedback is timely and supportive
- c) Respect your surroundings, the tower, church and the community where you ring.
- d) Understand and observe others' personal boundaries.
- e) Ring responsibly, with the well-being of your band and visitors in mind.
- f) Look out for others' safety, raise concerns promptly and know what to do if you witness unacceptable behaviour.
- g) Make sure all your interactions, online or in person, show empathy and courtesy.
- h) Consider the impact of your words and actions on others; apologise if you're at fault.
- i) Uphold the safeguarding policies of your parish and the ringing societies to which you belong.
- j) Take pride in being part of the ringing community.

6.3 NEVER

- a) Engage in, trivialise or endorse any form of abuse, bullying or harassment, or let these go unreported.
- b) Engage in banter or language which could make someone feel demeaned, threatened or unwelcome, whether in person, by phone, online or via social media.
- c) Undermine, ridicule or intimidate a less experienced ringer.
- d) Personalise disagreements; deal with the issue, not the person.
- e) Allow your decisions as a ringer to be compromised, by prejudice or any other cause.
- f) Act unlawfully in your role as a ringer or in a way that brings ringing into disrepute.

- 6.4 **IF YOU WITNESS** unacceptable behaviour and are not sure how to respond, contact your Parish or Association Safeguarding Officer. Where someone is in immediate danger or requires urgent attention, call your local authority's children's or adult social services team, or the police on 999.

7 Legal Framework

- 7.1 This Statement has been informed by the regulatory framework in England, including the following, which apply to parts of the United Kingdom:
- a) The Data Protection Act 2018 & General Data Protection Regulation
 - b) Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
 - c) The Children Acts 1989 and 2004
 - d) The Care Act 2014
 - e) The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) Regulations 2002
 - f) Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (No. 2) Regulations 2009
 - g) Children Act 1989 and 2004
 - h) Church of England; Promoting a Safer Church 2017.
 - i) The Care Act 2014
 - j) Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
 - k) Mental Capacity Act 2005
 - l) Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016