



Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Safeguarding Statement

The Suffolk Guild of Ringers takes the safeguarding and protection of children (under 18s) and vulnerable adults very seriously. It recognises that the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount and that we have a duty of care when they are in our charge. We will do everything that we can to provide a safe and caring environment whilst they attend our activities. All children and vulnerable adults will be treated with respect and dignity.

Safeguarding Policy

The Guild, as advised by the CCCBR, follows the national “Promoting a Safer Church” policy as adopted by the diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich:

- Local tower arrangements should always be approved by the PCC in line with the Parish Safeguarding Policy¹. The Tower Captain should have a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy and ensure that ringers have access to it.
- It is mandatory for Tower Captains and ringing teachers to complete the online safeguarding training course ‘**Basic Awareness**’ (previously called C0) as advised by the PSO² or Incumbent for the tower where they are listed. It is accessible via this web address <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>
The certificate awarded should be retained and the date of completion **notified to the PSO**.
- In addition to the ‘Basic Awareness’ course, **IF** your role involves work with children, young people or vulnerable adults it is mandatory to complete the online course ‘**Foundations**’ (previously called C1).

nb: Once Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted, arrangements will be put in place by the Diocese to attend an event in person for anyone who cannot access an online course.

- All Tower Captains and ringing teachers **MUST** hold a current clear DBS check status **IF** their role includes the training of children or vulnerable adults.
- Any person requiring a DBS check must first complete a Confidential Declaration Form, available here http://www.cofesuffolk.org/uploads/Church_of_England_Confidential_Declaration_Form_Nov_20_19_-_FINAL.docx The completed form should be **handed to the Incumbent or PSO** for secure and confidential storage.

A ringer does NOT require a DBS check if acting in a supporting role, undertaking unplanned one-off teaching or deputising in an emergency, providing two adults (preferably one of each gender) are present, nor for transporting children or vulnerable adults as part of arrangements between families.

Where there is cause for concern this should be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer or Incumbent immediately.³

¹ The Parish Safeguarding Statement / Policy should be displayed in the church together with the name and contact details of the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

²The PSO, Parish Safeguarding Officer, will keep a register of ‘Leadership’ courses attended but ringers are advised to keep their own record too to ensure that their qualifications do not lapse.

³ The Parish Safeguarding Officer or Incumbent will refer immediately to Suffolk County Council Customer First – 0808 800 4005. **If there is risk of immediate harm call the police – 999**

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