

Oxford Society of Change Ringers

Safeguarding Policy

The Oxford Society of Change Ringers acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (under the age of 18) and vulnerable adults and is committed to ensuring that its safeguarding procedures and protocols reflect statutory responsibilities, government guidance and best practice.

The Society's policy recognises that the welfare and interests of children and vulnerable adults are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and vulnerable adults:

- have a positive and enjoyable experience of ringing and related activities under the auspices of the Oxford Society of Change Ringers in a safe, appropriate environment
- are protected from abuse whilst participating in ringing and related activities organised by or on behalf of the Oxford Society of Change Ringers.

The Oxford Society of Change Ringers acknowledges that some children and vulnerable adults, including those who are disabled or from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse. The Society accepts the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of its safeguarding policy the Oxford Society of Change Ringers will:

- promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults
- ensure that the Society's officers and members understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and are provided with appropriate learning opportunities to recognise, identify and respond to signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns relating to children and vulnerable adults
- ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents and concerns of abuse, with support provided to the individual(s) who raise or disclose the concern
- ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
- prevent the deployment of unsuitable individuals
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation

The policy and procedures will be widely promoted and are mandatory for all persons involved in the activities of the Oxford Society of Change Ringers. Failure to comply with the policy and procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal or exclusion from the organisation.

This policy and its procedures will be reviewed a year after development and then every three years, or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation or government guidance
- as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, the Oxford Diocesan Board, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, or other appropriate regulatory body
- as a result of any other significant change or event