

Highweek Church Tower Safeguarding Code of Conduct

Purpose:

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure that all ringers, visitors, and anyone associated with ringing at Highweek behave in a way that respects and promotes the safety, well-being, and dignity of others. It is crucial to create a safe environment where everyone feels protected from harm, abuse, or neglect.

1. General Conduct

- Treat all individuals with respect, dignity, and courtesy at all times.
- Maintain clear and appropriate boundaries in all interactions, both in person and online.
- Uphold the values of equality, inclusion, and respect for diversity.
- Avoid any actions or behaviour that could be perceived as harmful, inappropriate, or discriminatory.
- At all times respect the environment, ringing chambers have a number of risks and as such behaviour at all times needs to be appropriate and must not create additional risk.

2. Relationships with Vulnerable Groups

- Do not engage in any form of abuse or exploitation.
- Always ensure that interactions are professional and that there is no ambiguity in your intentions.
- All activities involving vulnerable individuals must have appropriate supervision where required, and parental or guardian consent must be obtained when necessary.
- Ensure that any personal or sensitive information shared by individuals is handled with respect and confidentiality.

3. Boundaries and Physical Contact

- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with individuals, especially children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Where contact is required as in teaching ringing then this should be fully explained and consent obtained.
- Any physical contact should be limited to what is absolutely necessary for the individual's safety and well-being.

4. Communication and Social Media

- Any communication, whether in person, by phone, or online, should be respectful and professional.
- Avoid one-on-one communication via social media, text, or other platforms unless directly related to an official and transparent work or activity context.

- Use appropriate language and avoid sending unsolicited personal messages or content.

5. Reporting Concerns

- You are required to report any concerns about abuse, neglect, or inappropriate behaviour to the designated safeguarding officer, Tower captain or other relevant authorities. In an emergency report immediately to the Police or Social Services
- Never ignore or dismiss a concern raised by an individual regarding their safety or well-being.
- Reports must be taken seriously and acted upon swiftly and professionally.

6. Use of Alcohol and Drugs

- The use of alcohol or illegal drugs in the Church or ringing room is strictly prohibited.
- Always ensure that you are in a condition to fulfil your safeguarding responsibilities and make sound decisions about the safety and well-being of others.

7. Confidentiality and Record Keeping

- All confidential information shared by individuals must be treated with the utmost care and only disclosed to appropriate persons.

8. Reporting Unacceptable Behaviour

- Any behaviour that breaches this Code of Conduct, including discriminatory, harmful, or inappropriate actions, should be reported immediately.
- The Church Authorities will take all allegations seriously and respond in accordance with established safeguarding procedures.

9. Commitment to Ongoing Learning and Training

- Those leading ringing are expected to participate in safeguarding training and stay informed of current safeguarding best practices and legislation.
- Regular evaluations of safeguarding policies will be conducted to ensure continuous improvement.