

Safeguarding Questions and Answers

Do all ringers need to complete the basic awareness training even if there are no vulnerable people in the band?

‘I have confirmed this with the National Safeguarding Team and all ringers are required to complete Basic Awareness. This falls in line with the requirement for anyone who undertakes a role on behalf of the Church, ordained or lay, paid or volunteer, to complete Basic Awareness.’

Does anyone in the tower need to complete Foundation along with the tower captain?

‘This should then be followed by Foundation if they undertake a role with children or vulnerable adults, for example as a ringing teacher.’

Who is responsible for enforcing the training requirements?

‘It would be expected that the Tower Captain promotes and implements this requirement, as part of their oversight of the team of ringers. Within a parish setting it would be the PCC and Incumbent who hold responsibility for ensuring that the safeguarding learning and development framework is implemented, and those who fall within the requirements complete the appropriate pathways. However, they rely on the support of leaders to ensure that this is in place and the Parish Safeguarding Officer would also ensure that these requirements are promoted and understood.’

When should learners complete the training?

‘For any new ringers, Basic Awareness should be completed as part of their Induction process and then for any current ringers this should be completed at their earliest opportunity, and certainly by the end of 2022.’

What is the minimum age of ringer to complete training?

‘We ask people to complete Basic Awareness in the Diocese from 16, and would recommend if they are completing it at home that they do this at a time when an adult is around that they could speak to or get support from if they needed to.’

My PSO says that ringers in general don't need to do the training and that this can be decided at Parish level?

‘The Basic Awareness requirement for all Ringers is set as a National Church requirement so we can make sure we clarify this in a future safeguarding communication.’

From what age should ringers complete the training?

'The Diocese recommends that all over 16s complete the Basic Awareness training. Minors can be supported by an adult if necessary. This also applies to vulnerable people unless their mental age is below 16.'

My PSO says that all tower captains must complete leadership training?

'The information about Tower Captains no longer being required to complete Leadership has been clarified within the safeguarding newsletter and updated on the Diocesan website.'

I'm an atheist. Is there a secular equivalent that I can complete?

There is no secular equivalent to the training as it is a C of E requirement for those performing a role within the Church. Questions asking 'How would a Christian react to....?' can be completed as a comparative religion exercise.