



## Child Safeguarding Statement (May 2021)

The Irish Association of Change Ringers (IACR) provides support, training and networking for Church Bell Ringers in Ireland including some members who are under 18 years of age.

Irish Association of Change Ringers (IACR) encompasses three geographical areas, the Northern, Eastern and Southern Districts. There are a total of 37 church towers which are divided into three districts which are in two jurisdictions (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland). The main aim of the IACR is to promote the art of full circle bell ringing through education, training and competitions.

The IACR acknowledges its duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring that our safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice.

The IACR is committed to safeguarding children by implementing its 'Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy' and recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. The association officers and members are committed to ensuring that all children have a positive and enjoyable experience in a safe environment and are protected from abuse whilst participating in our activities.

### Risk Assessment

All IACR Districts have conducted a specific written risk assessment of any potential for harm to a child through their involvement in Bell Ringing activities. The written risk assessment indicates the areas of potential harm, the likelihood of harm occurring, and lists the required policy, guidance, process and practice required to alleviate the risks. If there are site specific risks that local towers need to include in their Child Safeguarding Statement, this is done at local level

	<b>Risk identified</b>	<b>Procedure in place to manage identified risk</b>
1	Risk of harm (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) of a child or vulnerable adult by the ringing master/other ringers / volunteer / peer / others.	Procedure in place for recruitment and vetting of ringing masters and coaches and training provided. <a href="#">Link to IACR Procedure #2 &amp; 3.</a>
2	Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) to a child on outings by the ringing master/other ringers / volunteer / peer / others.	Duty of care stay with their own leaders in addition to measures for risk 1 above.
3	Risk of harm of bullying of a child by the ringing master/other ringers / volunteer / peer / others;	Anti-bullying policy in place. <a href="#">Link to IACR Procedure #6</a>
4	Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from unauthorised photography.	Photo and video policy in place. <a href="#">Link to IACR Procedure #7</a>
5	Risk of harm (as defined in the CFA 2015) of a child from online abuse through social media or internet access.	Social Media policy in place. <a href="#">Link to IACR Procedure #8</a>
6	Risk of persons who are not selected, vetted and trained acting as Ringing Master or Coaches for children and vulnerable adults.	Procedure in place for maintaining and circulating a list of those who have completed selection, vetting and training. <a href="#">Link to IACR Procedure #4</a>
7	Allegations made against the ringing master/other ringers / volunteer / peer / others.	Procedure for the management of allegations in place. <a href="#">Link to IACR Procedure #1</a>

## Procedures

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), and Tusla's *Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice*. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service:

1. Procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service and reporting to Tusla (RoI) or Social Services (NI).
2. Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children or vulnerable adults;
3. Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm;
4. Procedure for maintaining a list of the persons (if any) in the relevant service who are mandated persons;
5. Procedure for appointing a relevant person (Designated Liaison Person (RoI) / Designated Officer (NI)
6. Anti Bullying Policy
7. Photo and video policy.
8. Social Medial policy

All procedures listed are available upon request or can be viewed on our website at [www.bellringingireland.org/](http://www.bellringingireland.org/)

We recognise that implementation is an on-going process. Our service is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in May 2023, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
IACR President

For queries, please contact the Relevant Persons:

IACR Association Safeguarding Officer :  
**To be appointed at the AGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.**

Northern District Safeguarding Officer :  
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Eastern District Safeguarding Officer :  
**To be appointed before the Association AGM.**

Southern District Safeguarding Officer :  
Di Pitcher, [dianarpitcher@gmail.com](mailto:dianarpitcher@gmail.com), +353 (0)86-8518329 or +353 (0)28 38483