



The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths

Founded 1747

Safeguarding Policy for the Protection of Young People and Vulnerable Adults

All Society Members should keep all relationships with young people open, observable, readily understood and shared with more than one responsible adult.

Throughout this document, the phrases “young people” and “young person” refer to individuals under the age of 18 or older people having a mental age of less than 18 (i.e. “vulnerable adults”). Care should be taken if there are indications that people may fall into this category.

The Society is predominantly an adult organisation and does not undertake teaching. However, it is its policy to elect suitable young people aged over 14 to membership and to encourage young potential members to take part in its activities. Therefore, it has a responsibility to ensure that young people are appropriately protected and that they and their parent(s) or guardian(s) can have confidence that young people can attend Society events in safety.

It is in the Society’s interests to ensure that nothing takes place which may have a detrimental effect on its standing with the church, to comply with any specific requirements of the incumbents at the churches where it rings and to observe the relevant church and diocese’s safeguarding policy.

As it is not possible to foresee every possible eventuality in this Policy, judgement and common sense should be applied in its application. Any flagrant disregard of this Policy at a Society event should be reported to the Master so that (s)he in consultation with the Officers may determine what action to take.

Practical Considerations

Young people attending Society events should be welcomed. They would normally be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other responsible adult known to Society Members. Where a young person attends an event unaccompanied or is accompanied by only one adult other than a parent or guardian on a regular basis, the Secretary should make enquiries with the parent(s) or guardian(s) to make sure they are aware.

Offenders

Where the Officers become aware that a Society Member has been convicted of an offence which could raise issues for the protection of young people, they should consider what (if any) restrictions on the future activities of that Member are appropriate and whether to inform any church that the Society frequently rings at.

A very small number of ringers have been convicted of offences against young people. Occasionally conditions have been applied by the court which restrict their ability to take part in mixed age activities. The Society’s Officers should ensure full adherence to those conditions in relation to Society events where these are known to apply to a Society Member.