

TOOL: Thinking about Safeguarding in Ringing

One of the key strategies to reducing the risk of abuse is to cultivate a culture where these issues can be discussed openly and confidently. As a result, why not consider sessions where you discuss safeguarding with members of your group or other ringers. Many ringers might initially find discussing these matters challenging. Always remember, the biggest problems in child abuse are secrecy and poor communication.

This tool should be used alongside and having read [BTO's Safeguarding Children and Safeguarding in Ringing Policies](#).

Perhaps you might think about how you or your group would react to differing scenarios. Here are a few to consider:

1. A 17-year-old trainee drives himself to a training session, but you notice he smells strongly of alcohol.
2. A parent drops a child with you for a CES session, but you then get a call saying your other colleagues can't make it.
3. A ringer is named in the local paper in connection with a sex offence.
4. A child comes back from a net round in tears and doesn't want to talk about it in front of the other ringers.
5. Your ringing site has no mobile phone coverage. What are the implications for safeguarding?