



# **ART Regulations**

Regulations for  
Accreditation of Teachers,  
Membership of the Association,  
ART Tutors and Assessors,  
ART Teaching Hubs  
and  
Learning the Ropes Scheme

Approved by the  
ART Management Committee  
30 June 2025

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## 1. Introduction

These regulations set out the key requirements for:

- Accreditation under the ART Training Scheme (ATS).
- Admittance to membership of the Association of Ringing Teachers (ART).
- The operation of ART Teaching Hubs.
- The Learning the Ropes Scheme for ringer development (LtR).

## 2. ART Training Scheme

These regulations provide information on the module content and assessment requirements for ART accredited teachers and set out the assessment requirements for those already following an ART Training Scheme (ATS) programme.

Further guidance and detail is available in the Teacher Training Logbook.

These regulations set out the minimum requirements for assessment and accreditation. They are not intended to prescribe the teaching methods to be adopted by teachers. Participants in ATS programmes are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the principles of skill development and the learning styles of the ringers they teach. However, teachers are also encouraged to adopt a flexible approach which meets the needs of individual ringers and are expected to demonstrate such flexibility.

ART expects that candidates will use its structured learning scheme for training new ringers, “Learning the Ropes” (LtR).

### Age Requirements

Candidates must be at least 14 years old to enrol on a day course.

Candidates who are at least 14 and less than 18 years old will be admitted to ATS Modules only on the understanding that their teaching will be supervised at all times by an over-18-year-old ATS teacher or mentor. Under-16 candidates may achieve accreditation before their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, but will not be admitted as a Member of ART until they are 16.

At all times the [ART Safeguarding policies](#) must be followed.

### Assessment

Candidates must book their assessment within the time limits outlined below.

On completion of the assessment the Assessor will confirm one of the following results:

- Recommended for accreditation.
- Fail.

### Time Limit

Candidates have **two years** from the date of the day course to book an assessment. The booking

should normally be no more than 2 months in the future and cannot be more than 6 months in the future.

If a candidate's enrolment has expired, as they have exceeded the two-year limit without passing an assessment booked within the time limit above, the following will apply:

- If their day course was completed more than two years but less than five years ago:
  - They can request enrolment on the relevant online refresher course available at [artonline.bellringing.org](http://artonline.bellringing.org).
  - They must complete online refresher training and a new theory test at [artonline.bellringing.org](http://artonline.bellringing.org).
  - Completion of a new theory test will allow up to a further 12 months to complete accreditation by booking an assessment.
  - Candidates can complete the online refresher course and associated theory test more than once, but the period allowed for completion of accreditation cannot extend beyond 5 years from their day course.
  - Candidates can also opt to undertake a further day course at any point to restart their training.
- If their day course was completed 5 or more years ago candidates must restart the training programme via enrolment on another day course.

If there are any extenuating circumstances that a candidate wishes to be taken into consideration, they should make an application under the [Right of Review](#) at least 14 days before their current enrolment expires. Where the circumstances merit it, the Chair may award a short extension of 180 days to allow completion of accreditation. Note that extensions will only be granted where an active enrolment exists and cannot be awarded for past enrolments which have ended.

### 3. Accreditation as a teacher

#### Module 1 – Teaching Bell Handling

Detailed requirements for assessment of teachers are outlined in the Teacher Training Logbook.

The candidate for teacher accreditation must attend the Module 1 (Teaching Bell Handling) Day Course and, after successfully completing the course, teach all components of the bell handling programme as outlined in the Teacher Training Logbook.

Candidates should have, as a minimum, bell handling skills in excess of the Learning the Ropes Level 2 handling assessment. For more information, see [bellringing.org/about-teaching/bell-handling/#GoodHandlingStyle](http://bellringing.org/about-teaching/bell-handling/#GoodHandlingStyle)

Candidates must follow the concepts and methods of teaching outlined on the course.

More detailed guidance for assessors and teachers can be found in [Guidance notes for ART Assessors](#) (Module 1).

A pass must be achieved on the relevant online multiple choice theory test before the teacher can be submitted for accreditation.

Module content may change from time to time, for more information see [bellringing.org/about-teaching/teaching-modules/bell-handling/](http://bellringing.org/about-teaching/teaching-modules/bell-handling/).

### **Module 2F/2C**

Candidates may complete Module 2F/2C prior to, or without completing Module 1. However, it is recommended that they attend Module 1 first. Module 2F/2C candidates should note that they may be required to demonstrate knowledge of the following areas of teaching theory from Module 1:

- The theory of skills development.
- The ability to be flexible and use appropriate exercises for the new ringer (e.g. age, learning style).
- Communication, observation and feedback skills.

### **Common Assessment Requirements for Modules 2F & 2C**

Detailed requirements for assessment of teachers are outlined in the Teacher Training Logbook.

The candidate for teacher accreditation must attend either the Module 2F (Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt) or Module 2C (Teaching Elementary Change Ringing) Day Course and, after successfully completing the course, teach all components of the programme as outlined in the Teacher Training Logbook.

Candidates should have, as a minimum, bell handling skills in excess of the Learning the Ropes Level 2 handling assessment. For more information, see [bellringing.org/about-teaching/bell-handling/#GoodHandlingStyle](http://bellringing.org/about-teaching/bell-handling/#GoodHandlingStyle)

Candidates must follow the concepts and methods of teaching outlined on the course.

More detailed guidance for Assessors and teachers can be found in [Guidance notes for ART Assessors](#) (Module 2F or Module 2C).

A pass must be achieved on the relevant online multiple choice theory test before the teacher can be submitted for accreditation.

### **Module 2F – Teaching from Rounds to Plain Hunt**

The candidate for teacher accreditation must first successfully complete the Module 2F Day Course and then design and deliver a programme of learning to take a ringer from being able to handle a bell competently to being able to ring call changes, kaleidoscope sequences, plain hunt and covering.

Module content may change from time to time, for more information see [bellringing.org/about-teaching/teaching-modules/foundation-skills](http://bellringing.org/about-teaching/teaching-modules/foundation-skills)

## Module 2C – Teaching Elementary Change Ringing

To be registered on this course, candidates must submit evidence from [BellBoard](#) that they have rung a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor or a more advanced method on a working bell.

The candidate for teacher accreditation must first successfully complete the Module 2C Day Course and then design and deliver a programme of learning for teaching elementary change ringing.

Module content may change from time to time, for more information see [bellringing.org/about-teaching/teaching-modules/early-method-ringing/](http://bellringing.org/about-teaching/teaching-modules/early-method-ringing/).

## 4. Appointment of Assessors

Assessors are selected from Members and will be appointed by the ART Management Committee, upon recommendation by the ART Standards Lead.

The proposed Assessor:

- Must be an accredited teacher on the appropriate modules(s) they will assess.
- Must have successfully completed the online training for Assessors.
- Must have observed and participated in at least one assessment with an existing Assessor for the relevant Module prior to their appointment.

All Assessors:

- Will be appointed for a five-year term.
- Will observe or jointly assess at least one assessment every five years with another Assessor in the Modules they are themselves assessing, to re-appraise their own assessing, give feedback to other Assessors and support consistency.
- May be re-appointed by the Management Committee for further terms.
- Must follow the [Guidance notes for ART Assessors](#).

## 5. Appointment of Tutors

Tutors will be selected from Members and be appointed by the ART Management Committee, upon recommendation by the ART Tutor Coordinator.

The proposed Tutor:

- Must observe two each of the Modules on which they will Tutor.
- Must have achieved accreditation at the Modules which they will Tutor
- Must possess effective presentation and communication skills.

All Tutors:

- Will be appointed for a five-year term.

- Will attend, or jointly run, courses in alternate years, with other Tutors in the Modules they are themselves teaching, to re-appraise their own tutoring, give feedback to other Tutors and support consistency.
- May be re-appointed by the Management Committee for further terms.
- Must work with the local Course Organiser and ART Administrator to find suitable Mentors for delegates on a course, following the [Mentor Selection Guidelines](#).

## 6. ART Membership

The following classes of Member will be admitted to ART:

- Members
- Affiliated Members

All members are required to complete the Membership Declaration, submit appropriate safeguarding documents and pay their annual membership subscription in order to maintain their membership.

Members who are Financial Supporters of ART as either a Patron or a Sponsor will not be required to pay a membership subscription for the duration of their support to ART in this manner.

Affiliated Members will not be required to pay a membership subscription.

ART reserves the right to refuse, cancel or withhold membership at our absolute discretion.

As a member of the ART you are entitled to the benefits applicable to your membership type. These benefits are outlined on our website: <https://bellringing.org/about-teaching/after-the-course/accreditation-membership/>.

However, ART reserves the right to vary, amend or withdraw these rights and benefits at our discretion.

Unless stated otherwise, or without prior consent, all ART materials and publications received by members must not be reproduced, transmitted, distributed, or sold.

Rights and benefits received from membership are personal and can't be transferred to anyone else.

### Members – Teachers

Membership of the Association shall be open to those teachers who are accredited for at least one of: ATS Module 1 (Teaching Bell Handling); Module 2F (Foundation Skills); Module 2C (Teaching Elementary Change Ringing).

### Affiliated Members

Affiliated Members shall consist of those who possess skills or knowledge deemed to be beneficial to the objective of the Association. These shall be appointed by the Management Committee for a specified period and may be eligible for re-appointment. Affiliated members are not required to pay a membership subscription and have no member benefits.

## 7. ART Teaching Hubs

A tower or group of towers can apply to become recognised as an ART Teaching Hub. The Leader of an ART Teaching Hub must be a Member of ART.

The application to become an ART Hub will be reviewed by the ART Hubs Lead on behalf of the ART Management Committee before ART Teaching Hub status is awarded. New Teaching Hubs will then receive a certificate confirming their Hub status, which is valid until the end of the calendar year.

All ART Teaching Hubs are asked to complete an Annual Return in January each year, covering their activities in the previous year. Once a satisfactory Annual Return has been received the Hub will receive a new certificate confirming their Hub status for a further year.

ART Hubs must:

- Keep and maintain equipment and facilities to teach bell handling and change ringing.
- Hold practices focused on the Learning the Ropes curriculum.
- Support practices with theory or hold theory workshops.
- Work within ART Policies and Guidelines.
- Ensure teaching is carried out or supervised by ART Members using ART Training Scheme techniques.
- Ensure new ringers are registered on the Learning the Ropes scheme.
- Promote group teaching with an intensive teaching approach.
- If they can, give a donation to ART annually.
- Support learning for other towers.

## 8. The Learning the Ropes Scheme

Learning the Ropes (LtR) is a progressive learning scheme for new ringers. It provides a structured approach to the development of ringing skills where new skills are built on those already learned. It is available to new ringers being taught using the ART method.

The Learning the Ropes Advanced Call Change scheme runs in parallel to the standard Learning the Ropes scheme for use by bands, teachers and ringers that want to focus on call changes rather than method ringing.

ART expects that an accredited teacher, involved with the initial and early stages of instructing a new ringer, either from scratch with bell handling or from any level of the LtR scheme if they have some experience already, will use, as a matter of course, the LtR scheme of ART.

The LtR scheme is designed to enable a ringer to develop within a structured environment with five distinct levels. Learners' achievements at each level must be assessed by the teacher and following successful completion of the tasks and skill development activities relevant to each level, the teacher may request that a level completion certificate be awarded to the ringer.

There are some restrictions on the issuing of certificates related to the experience levels of the teacher. These are to ensure that a learner receiving instruction and being assessed by a teacher can



be assured that the teacher has the necessary, evidenced, experience to make that assessment. LtR Levels 3, 4 and 5 require completion of extended periods of ringing which must be recorded on [BellBoard](#).

### Assessment of LTR scheme level completion

The LtR Levels that you can assess ringers and submit passes at depends upon which Teacher Training Modules you have completed or are engaged on. For **safety** reasons, you can only assess ringers and submit passes at LtR Level 1 (Bell Handling) if you have completed, or are engaged on, Module 1 (Teaching Bell Handling). The other restrictions detailed below serve to ensure that a teacher has achieved accreditation at the relevant M courses level where M1 equates to LtR Level, 1 and 2, M2F/C equate to LtR Levels 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Explicitly this means that:

- If you have attended a Module 1 Day Course, and are either accredited at Module 1 or have an active enrolment on the relevant training programme, then you can assess ringers and submit passes at LtR Level 1 and Level 2.
- If you have attended a Module 2F/2C Day Course and are either accredited at Module 2F/2C or have an active enrolment on the relevant training programme, then you can assess ringers and submit passes at LtR Levels 2, 3, 4 and 5.

### LtR Handbells

Learning the Ropes Handbells can be used by ringers joining established handbell bands as well as those wishing to start a new handbell band. Like Learning the Ropes it is a progressive scheme of five levels. Submission for certificates under LtR Handbells can be made by ringers themselves as well as their teachers. In order to pass each Level you must complete the required number of activities. Levels 2, 3, 4 and 5 also require completion of extended periods of ringing which must be recorded on [BellBoard](#) and a link included in the submission.

### LtR Plus

Learning the Ropes Plus is an awards scheme which encourages ringers who have successfully completed the Learning the Ropes scheme and want to progress further. It encourages ringers to become more self-motivated and self-directed. Unlike Learning the Ropes it is not a progressive scheme, as submissions can be made for any category of achievement at any time.

Submission for certificates under Learning the Ropes Plus can be made by ringers themselves as well as their teachers. There is a need for ART to make provision for further development of accredited teachers therefore this scheme also offers certification to ART Teachers in addition to their ringers.

In order to complete some of the activities you must complete the required number of extended periods of ringing. A [BellBoard](#) link to the extended periods of ringing must then be included when recording the achievement on SmART Ringer. The extended period of ringing will usually be a quarter peal, but a peal may be rung if preferred. Earlier performances will not be eligible for submission for this scheme. Submissions for conducting achievements must be Doubles or a higher number of bells.

## 9. Unregulated activities

ART offer a range of unregulated activities in addition to those listed above, which do not form part of these Regulations. These include (but are not limited to):

- 50 Ringing Things.
- 50 Ringing Things for Teams.
- Online courses available at [artonline.bellringing.org](http://artonline.bellringing.org).
- Learning the Ropes Masterclass.
- Learning the Ropes Festivals.

## 10. Fitness to Practise

ART reserves the right to review the accreditation of a teacher following a report of a potential cause for concern about their teaching. Every report of a potential cause for concern will be investigated by the ART Management Committee. At the conclusion of the investigation, the ART Management Committee may decide to revoke the accreditation of that teacher and they will no longer be eligible to be a member of ART.

ART also reserves the right to review the appointment of Tutors and Assessors following a report of a potential cause for concern. Every report of a potential cause for concern will be investigated by the ART Management Committee. At the conclusion of the investigation, the ART Management Committee may decide to end the current term of appointment for that Tutor/Assessor.

## 11. Right of Review

Following completion of the processes outlined in these Regulations, if anyone believes that their circumstances (including those not previously disclosed) were not fully considered, they can make a final request to the Chair to review the decision. They must disclose all information they believe is relevant to their situation. The Chair will review all information provided and make a decision, which will be final. Such requests should be submitted in writing by emailing [chair@bellringing.org](mailto:chair@bellringing.org).

## 12. Changes to these Regulations

Changes to these regulations will only be made by the Association's Management Committee.

New regulations will apply to all ART activities three months from the date of approval by the ART Management Committee.

Approved by the ART Management Committee on: 30 June 2025

# Appendix 1 – Glossary

## **Association of Ringing Teachers (ART)**

ART is the management and accreditation body for the ART Training Scheme (ATS). It is made up of Members who have completed ATS Modules.

## **Accreditation**

At the completion of a Module, the Teacher becomes an accredited teacher recognised by ART and is eligible for membership of the Association. A certificate will be awarded to record their achievement.

## **ART Accredited Teacher**

A teacher who has completed one or more ATS Modules.

## **ART Assessor**

An ART Member appointed by the ART Management Committee to carry out the final assessment of a teacher.

## **ART Hubs Lead**

The person appointed by the ART Management Committee to oversee all ART Hubs.

## **ART Membership**

Membership is offered to teachers who are accredited under an ATS programme. Membership is additional to accreditation and requires completion of a Membership Declaration, appropriate safeguarding checks and payment of an annual subscription fee.

## **ART Standards Lead**

The person appointed by the ART Management Committee to oversee and maintain ART standards and the appointment and training of ART Assessors.

## **ART Teaching Hub**

A tower or group of towers recognised by ART as an ART Teaching Hub.

## **ART Teaching Hub Leader**

An ART member who oversees all the teaching in the ART Hub.

## **ART Tutor**

An ART Member appointed by the ART Management Committee to lead ATS Day Courses.

## **ART Tutor Coordinator**

The person appointed by the ART Management Committee to oversee Day Courses and the appointment and training of ART Tutors.

## **Fitness to Practise**

Fitness to practise is an assessment of the ability of a person to practise teaching safely and effectively. It includes (but is not limited to) consideration of their overall ability to perform their

individual role, their personal behaviour, and the impact of any health condition on their ability to provide safe and effective teaching.

### **Learning the Ropes (LtR)**

A structured learning programme for ringers.

#### **Mentor**

A bellringer who has attended the relevant Day Course. They should be committed to adopting the ATS philosophy. They will be required to mentor the teacher as needed, to support completion of the activities listed in the Teacher Training Logbook. Up to three attendees at the same ART Day Course may operate as mentors to each other. These are often known as co-teachers.

#### **Teacher**

A bellringer who attends a Day Course of the ATS.