

The Leominster Lattice

Created in May 2025 at Ivington Church of England Primary School in Leominster.



Formation: Stand in a circle, with an even number of ribbons, and also an even number of colours arranged in a repeating pattern around the circle. In this description the ribbons are arranged in a repeating pattern of Red Yellow Blue Green moving *anticlockwise* round the maypole. And I prefer to start with a ribbon from the lower ring on my maypole (so either Yellow or Green).

Difficulty: another of the trickier ones. Only one colour moves at a time but you need to check they all make it to their new position – they might do this by counting people or remembering which colours they stand next to. You also need to keep careful track of which colour you’ve got to in the pattern, and which direction they should move – it’s not obvious just by looking at the ribbons! And it’s then very tricky to spot what has gone wrong so tangles are hard to undo. I would only attempt this dance with an attentive group.

What’s the goal? A beautiful lattice of twisted ribbons around the maypole. It takes a few moves before you can see it take shape so be patient!

Step 1. Greens dance to the Left around the outside of the circle, into the next Green spot. i.e. take their ribbon over the head of one Blue, one Yellow, and one Red, then stop between the Red and the next Blue.

Step 2. Reds (i.e. the last people the Greens just danced past) dance to the Right around the outside of the circle, into the next Red spot.

Step 3. Yellows dance to the Left.

Step 4. Blues dance to the Right.

Step 5. Repeat Steps 1-4 several more times until you can see more of the beautiful pattern! Remember, when you stop you’re only halfway through the dance, so don’t get too carried away.

To unwind: repeat everything exactly in reverse. i.e. start with the Blues but send them to Left this time. Then Yellows to the Right, Reds to the Left, and Greens to the Right.