Exeter U3A

Member Code of Conduct

The Member Code of Conduct clarifies the standard of behaviour expected from each u3a Member:

- Members are expected to know, follow and promote the Principles of the u3a movement (set out below) at every opportunity.
- Members must always act in the best interests of Exeter U3A and the u3a movement, strive to uphold its reputation and never do anything which could bring their own u3a, another u3a or the u3a movement into disrepute or expose it to undue risk.
- Members are expected to use Exeter U3A's resources responsibly and only to further its stated charitable objectives/purposes.
- Members are expected to abide by Exeter U3A's policies, procedures and practices.
- Members are expected to treat each other with dignity and respect at all times and in particular:
    - members should be punctual at events where they are expected
    - members should be well-mannered with each other
    - members should ensure that their own behaviour does not impede or discourage other members from participating in u3a activities by, for example:
        - being unwilling to listen to other member's contributions,
        - talking over another member,
        - disagreeing rudely about another member's remarks,
        - being domineering, physically or in some other way.

The Principles of the u3a Movement

The u3a movement is non-religious and non-political. This means that the u3a does not align itself with or promote any political or religious position or body. This does not prevent members having such positions or discussing matters of politics or religion. There are three main principles of the movement:

The Third Age Principle

- Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full time employment has ceased.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a.
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a u3a can do so.

The Self-help Learning Principle

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all u3a members.

The Mutual Aid Principle

- Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3a movement.
- No payments are made to members for services rendered to any u3a.
- Each u3a is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.
- Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the u3a movement.

Adoption and Review

This Member Code of Conduct was updated by Exeter U3A on 3 March 2025 based on the Third Age Trust Model Member Code of Conduct - u3a-KMS-DOC-016

Next Review date: January 2026.

This Code of Conduct was reviewed in October 2026, no changes were made.

Next Review date: October 2029