



## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Stafford u3a recognises the importance of social media as a tool for communication in today's digital world, however, it also recognises dangers involved.

Any group may have a closed Facebook page restricted to current u3a members. Only members can see who is in the group and what they post.

Information shared must be directly related to u3a activities, though there might be occasion where certain community events can be flagged if, for instance u3a members will be attending a public event to publicise the group, or if attendance at an event will be relevant and of real benefit to the group's activities.

Any post should be positive and polite. It is not a forum for criticism of other members, Unkind, bullying or discriminatory language will not be tolerated.

Any photograph posted must have the permission of all those pictured and if members are named in a written post, their permission must be sought.

*Please bear in mind that any posts may be retained for an indefinite period by the service provider.*

Some Stafford u3a interest groups may decide to have a WhatsApp group. No-one should be added to a WhatsApp group without their permission as their phone numbers will be accessible to the whole group. The above rules of conduct for Facebook users will, of course, also apply to WhatsApp Groups.

Social Media must **not** be used by group leaders to inform members of regular u3a meetings and activities. This must be done via Beacon, our Membership database.

Policy agreed 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025