

## PRESTON PARK u3a

### MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Preston Park u3a is a charity run by members for members, with the aim of promoting ongoing learning, personal development and well-being in the so called Third Age. We are committed to making sure our u3a is as inclusive and welcoming as possible and our meetings and activities are conducted in a friendly and co-operative atmosphere.
- 1.2 To ensure we achieve this, like other u3as we have adopted a Member Code of Conduct that clarifies the standard of behaviour expected from each u3a member. Committee members of Preston Park u3a, as charitable trustees, are in addition required to comply with the Trustee Code of Conduct (available on our website).

#### 2. Member Code of Conduct

- 2.1 Members are expected to know, follow and promote the Principles of the u3a Movement at every opportunity. These are set out in section 3 below.
- 2.2 Members must always act in the best interests of Preston Park u3a and the u3a movement, strive to uphold their reputation and never do anything which could bring their own, another u3a or the u3a movement into disrepute or expose them to undue risk.
- 2.3 Members are expected to use Preston Park u3a's resources responsibly and only to further its stated charitable purposes. These are: 'the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.'
- 2.4 Members are expected to reflect the current organisational policy of Preston Park u3a, regardless of whether it conflicts with their personal views.
- 2.5 Members are expected to abide by Preston Park u3a's procedures and practices.

Policies and procedures are drawn up and agreed by our Committee, who are elected each year by members of Preston Park u3a. They are published on the Links page of our website: <https://prestonpark.u3asite.uk/links/>.

- 2.6 Members are expected to treat each other with dignity and respect at all times.

#### 3. The Founding Principles of the u3a Movement

- 3.1 The u3a movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

### 3.2 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.

### 3.3 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. (However, external tutors who are not u3a members may be paid to teach activities requiring specialist expertise or qualifications.)

### 3.4 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.

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