

SWAN Places

Group Rules & Guidelines

General Rules

SWAN meetups are autistic-only spaces, so you must be an autistic woman or non-binary person (18+), either diagnosed or self-diagnosed, to participate in the group in any capacity (unless by occasional invitation e.g. a workshop facilitator).

Be Respectful

We are different people with vastly different backgrounds, political beliefs, religions, and gender identities. "Be respectful" is a bit of a vague rule, but in general, being intentionally hurtful, rude, or disrespectful to other members is NOT ALLOWED.

Of course, with a group of many people from many different backgrounds, not everyone is going to immediately get along. But you can still be respectful and kind when you disagree with others.

While we all share a neurotype, please respect everyone's individual processing and communication profiles, sensory experiences and potential anxiety or stress levels in the group.

This includes SWAN volunteers and staff, who are also autistic.



Unacceptable Ideologies

The following ideologies are not allowed to be held within the group space. In general, it is okay to discuss these topics, but you cannot promote these ideologies. It is not allowed to project any of these or any other hateful or prejudiced views on the group:

- Racism
- Homophobia / Transphobia
- Ableism / Eugenics - this includes all disabilities.

Also - no one is "not autistic enough" for this group. Many people are self-diagnosed, for a variety of reasons. Some people struggle more than others with their perception in society. Many people have lived the majority of their life masking or may not present as what others believe to be "autistic". Please do not gate-keep what it means to be autistic.

This is a group for people of all backgrounds to come together and make friends/have nice conversations. In general, if you're making the space uncomfortable for several of our members, that is not acceptable.

DMs, Asking for Phone Numbers & Meeting Outside of the Group

Communication outside of meetups is of course allowed - we're here to connect after all - though do bear in mind it's not something SWAN staff or volunteers can support with. SWAN is not responsible for any contact outside of groups.

It is each person's individual decision if they want to connect outside meetups - please don't make other group members uncomfortable with your advances, and respect people's boundaries.



When Group Rules are not Respected

If someone breaks a rule, the individual will be talked to in private by a group facilitator.

We will always try to resolve rule-breaking issues where possible.

After two incidents however, you may be asked to leave the group.

If the offence is severe enough (harassment, threatening group members or volunteers, etc.) the member will be subject to immediate removal from the group.

If you're having trouble with a member of the group not following these rules or making you uncomfortable, please let us know.

info@swanscotland.org

