

Doc: Yate and Sodbury u3a Vision, Mission, Principles and Conduct	Date: 12 October 2025
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Change Record

Issue	Date	Section(s) Affected	Description of Change / Change Request Reference / Remarks
Draft 1	05/02/2020	All	Taken from www.u3a.org.uk/about/vision and www.u3a.org.uk/advice/document-downloads/u3a-kms-doc-016-member-code-of-conduct
Draft 2	14/05/2020	Document control	Add this document control sheet
Draft 3	19/05/2020	1, 2, 3	Add "District" in name – add version and date to referred docs. Clarify text on operating without regard to religion and politics. Delete clause on conflict of policies with personal views. Assign Janet Stuart for "Document Approved By".
Issue 1	19/05/2020	All	Published
Issue 1	19/5/2021	All	Review, no changes, all same just review date changed from 19May21 to 19May22
Issue 2	7/9/2022	All	Review, no content changes only formatting changes and review date.
Issue 3	6/8/2025	All	Change u3a to lower case; change doc links

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Yate and Sodbury District u3a: Vision, Mission, Principles and Conduct

1. Vision and Mission

Ref: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/?view=article&id=312:vision-and-mission&catid=163&highlight=WyJ2aXNpb24iXQ==>

The u3a Vision is to make lifelong learning, through the experience of u3a, a reality for third agers.

The u3a Mission is to:

- Facilitate the growth of the u3a movement.
- Provide support for management and learning in u3as.
- Raise the profile of the u3a movement.
- Promote the benefits of learning in later life through self-help learning.

2. The Principles of the u3a Movement

The u3a movement operates without regard to religion or politics and has three main principles:

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 not be sought.

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3. 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 at every opportunity.
- Members must always act in the best interests of Yate & Sodbury District u3a and the u3a Movement, strive to uphold its reputation and never do anything which could bring their own, another u3a or the u3a Movement into disrepute or expose it to undue risk.
- Members are expected to use Yate & Sodbury District u3a's resources responsibly and only to further its stated charitable objects/purposes.
- Members are expected to abide by Yate & Sodbury District u3a's procedures and practices.
- Members are expected to treat each other with dignity and respect at all times.

Reference: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/agm-2020/member-code-of-conduct/download>

Note: this is a u3a advice document, to access it you must login or register here

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/login>