

Members Policy

Welcome to the Autism Family Support Group. We hope that you find of benefit the opportunity to avail of the activities and supports we have on offer and welcome your suggestions and feedback on any further activities.

A member of the Autism Family Support Group is anyone who has a child or adult with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder. It also includes anyone awaiting a diagnosis. The membership includes the child or children / adult with ASD, their parents or carers and siblings ie brothers and sisters.

On joining our group or if you are an existing member we ask that you take note of the following information and should you have any further questions regarding this please do ask.

On joining the group or participating as a current member your role will be to

- Welcome other new families to the group and encourage their participation.
- Show respect to all members of the group and respect individually, others opinions and backgrounds etc.
- Act responsibly and respectfully while participating in group activities etc - remember you are the representatives of the group.
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior while in the company of children and follow protocols according to child protection guidelines etc.
- Participate in all opportunities possible and offer your support where possible
- Offer Support to other families as and when you see fit.
- Comply with the various policies and procedures which have been drafted by directors and devised as per generic charity guidelines

For your information the following are some protocols which you are asked to adhere to during your interaction with the group.

- No alcohol to be consumed while in the presence of children during activities etc
- Should you have any grievances they should be addressed to the directors via our complaints procedure and not to another member. Any issues not received directly by the directors will not be deemed as a complaint.

- Any suggestions for activities should be directed towards the relevant sub-committee following relevant sub-committee procedures or directly to the directors but should not be posted on group facebook page and under no circumstances should members organize activities or events without the directors prior knowledge.
- Members should give feedback and opinions by contacting the directors and not by posting on the facebook page.
- the facebook page is only to be used for offering or seeking support, Posting updates or arrangements regarding activities or asking the directors a general question. It should not be used for posting complaints or initiating any provoking activity etc.
- Unless specified on the details of the specific activity they are for the immediate family only ie child with ASD, their siblings and parents or carers. Activities are not for extended family members or friends ie cousins aunts etc and in the case of some activities it may be for the child with ASD only and their parents however this information will be made available along with details of specific activity.
- the parent or carer present will be responsible for the welfare of their son or daughter at all times and in the case of the 12+ group where the teenagers are present without parents the volunteer leaders will assist in their supervision etc
- Please be advised when a matter reaches the directors their decision is final and only through a meeting such as EGM etc where necessary will this decision be reversed.