



## **Code of conduct and disclaimer for the Bristol Autism Network Facebook group** *Updated November 2018*

This group is specifically for parents and unpaid carers of autistic children living in the Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and BaNES area.

**By using this group you automatically acknowledge and agree to abide by this code of conduct.**

### **What this group is for**

The BAN Facebook group exists to provide support and information about raising an autistic child. It is managed by parents / unpaid carers. We are not experts in any area but provide peer-to-peer support based on our own experiences.

### **Respect**

This group exists to create a safe online forum for members to get support. Everyone here has a voice and deserves to be heard. Please post and respond respectfully. If you have to think about whether or not your post or comment is appropriate, it probably isn't. Please do not swear in the group – either in a post or comment.

Our Facebook group is a place to share successes, ask questions and vent frustrations. However, please do not name specific organisations or professionals. For example, it is OK to say 'my paediatrician has cancelled my appointment again!' but not OK to name that professional. Opinions about professionals are highly subjective.

### **Confidentiality**

We ask that all members respect the confidentiality of other members. What's said in the group stays in the group. **Members are not to share information posted in this Facebook group with anyone outside the group.** If you are concerned about something that has been posted, please contact a member of the admin team so that the issue can be dealt with.

Please do not, under any circumstances, take screen shots of posts in the group.

### **Your information**

While we make every effort to protect our group members, it is impossible for us to fully vet every member we add. Please be careful with the information that you post. Do not give information that tells strangers too much information about your child (such as their name, what school they go to, etc.). Please do not post pictures of your children in the group unless they cannot be identified (ie their back is to the camera or with a smiley covering their face). Even so, remember that this is Facebook and any picture can travel anywhere. Pictures of identifiable children will be posted by admin with a sticker covering their face.

### **Selling**

We do not allow selling in our group, so please do not post items or services you are personally selling as these posts will be removed.

### **Fundraising**

We do not allow posts about fundraising activities for groups or charities.

## **Equal Opportunities Policy**

The Bristol Autism Network group supports everyone who needs us regardless of race, colour or nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital or civil partner status, disability, religion or belief, age or any other ground on which it is or becomes unlawful to discriminate under the laws of England and Wales.

### **In summary**

#### **Please:**

- Keep posts to autism-specific topics. As the group is very large, this is necessary to ensure that all posts get the attention and support they need.
- Be respectful of your child's safety, privacy and dignity – do not share too much about your child. Never post pictures of your child unless their face has been obscured.
- Be respectful regarding the frequency of posting about the same issue.
- Do not share too much personal information about yourself.
- Do not share information from the group with anyone.
- Please don't post selling or fundraising items.
- Do not openly discuss schools or professionals in the group.

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**Disclaimer:** Opinions expressed in comments made by those who participate in this group are the personal opinions of the posters and not necessarily of or endorsed by the Bristol Autism Network as a whole.

**The Bristol Autism Network reserves the right to remove posts people from our Facebook group if any of these guidelines are repeatedly ignored. We also reserve the right to remove members at our discretion.**