



for families with children and young people with  
special educational needs and disabilities in Sussex

## **Amaze Fundraising Whatsapp Community – Group Agreement**

Groups are a great way to connect with others but as with any group, it helps to have a shared understanding of how we will work together to keep things welcoming and safe for everyone. When you join the group you are agreeing to follow this agreement.

This group has moderators or group admins who have agreed to help make sure the group works well and step in if not. The group admins are currently: Jhuma Sharma and Hannah Allbrooke. You can see this if you open Group Info in WhatsApp and look at the participants list. The admins are marked on the list.

If you are ever concerned about something in the group, feel unsafe or uncomfortable or that someone may have breached this agreement please message the group admins or contact [fundraising@amazesussex.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@amazesussex.org.uk) and ask for your concern to be passed on to a manager.

## **Consent to sharing your name and phone number**

When you join the group all other participants can see your name and mobile phone number. By joining you are giving your consent to sharing this personal information and it being stored on WhatsApp. Only group members will be able to see this on WhatsApp.

Amaze will keep a record of your name and phone number and membership of this group on Beacon, our secure database. By joining the group you are also giving consent for this.

You can read our Privacy Statement <https://amazesussex.org.uk/privacy-policy/> to find out more about how we keep your information safe, your right to see what personal data we hold about you and your right to have this deleted at any time.

## **What is the group for and who can join?**

This group is for people who are taking part in fundraising activities for Amaze. The group chat is to make connections, arrange activities and share support and ideas.

Anyone can suggest another person joins the group but only group admins can add a new member.

## **Confidentiality and Safeguarding**

Please respect the confidentiality of others in the group. It is a great place for sharing and off-loading so everyone needs to know that no one will talk elsewhere about things that are said in the group

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Patrons: Angela Barnes, Julia Donaldson, Henry Normal, Angela Pell and Joe Wilkinson

that are personal. Bear in mind that this is quite an open group. Don't share anything you would not say in a room full of other people. Don't speak about other families who are not part of the group. We will respect the confidentiality of what you say unless it raises a serious concern about the safety of you or others. The group admins will follow Amaze's Safeguarding Policy in this situation. You can see this policy here <https://amazesussex.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/lana-downloads/2023/12/2024-Safeguarding-policy.pdf>

### **Mutual support and kindness**

Be thoughtful and sensitive towards others in the group. We all have good and bad days so it is important to be non-judgemental and supportive. Differences of opinion are healthy but no one should feel put down or bullied in this group. Take a measured approach in what you say about services and professionals. This should be a safe place to talk about things that you are unhappy about but keep in mind that the teacher or social worker you are talking about may be a friend or relative of another group member or the school you are slating may be the one another child is about to join. Remember that others in the group may be at a different point in their journey as a parent of a child with additional needs. Pause before you hit send and think if what you are saying could be hurtful, scary or just misinterpreted. Look out for each other and let a group admin know if you are worried about someone.

### **Language and discrimination**

We try to be positive and inclusive in the language we use about our children, disability and caring. It is good to share the challenges we and our children face (and fine to have a moan) but avoid using words that are derogatory about being disabled, autistic etc. Remember lots of parents of disabled children are disabled themselves too. We are a neurodiverse set of people. We need to be respectful of all our differences as a group. Language that is discriminatory or prejudiced (racist, sexist, homophobic and similar) is not welcome in our group. If you want to read Amaze's Equalities Policy, it is here <https://amazesussex.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/lana-downloads/2023/12/2022-Equalities-Policy.pdf>

### **Safety and boundaries**

We do not vet people who join. Use your own judgement about connecting with other group members outside of the group chat. Don't share information like your address in the group chat. Of course you may choose to communicate with friends you make via Amaze in your own messaging conversations or group chats but Amaze takes no responsibility for chats conducted outside of official Amaze messaging groups.

### **What if someone breaks this agreement?**

We really want everyone to have a positive experience in this group. If you ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable or someone says something that upsets or offends you please alert the group admins so they can deal with this. The admins might ask a member to delete a message or delete it directly. If this happens to you please don't be offended. Sometimes we don't realise how others may "hear" what we write. We will always try to resolve things amicably. But if this is not possible admins can remove someone from the group temporarily or permanently.