

East Lothian u3a

OPEN AND CLOSED GROUP- POLICY

Definition of an Open v Closed Group

1. Elu3a follow the principles and ethos of Third Age Trust (TAT).
Groups should be open and inclusive, focussed upon learning and socialising.
2. U3a members and non-members are allowed three visits to a group before joining.
3. Groups may declare themselves as beginner/ intermediate/advanced. They should state on their website their requirements and how to get involved.

If a group operates at a high level/ standard level of activity they should state that they are an Advanced/Intermediate group. They should describe the skill levels required and what steps should be taken to reach a particular level. They should offer clear routes to develop a new member's integration into the group, with an annual review and clear assessment of their suitability.

4. A group may be limited due to capacity-as many meet in member's homes. In this case a waiting list should be set up. If the waiting list grows considerably, a second group may be formed if a new leader can be found.
5. A closed group is one that is unable to operate withing the above guidelines. The committee will support efforts to become an open group.

Agreed by committee on 20th May 2026