



# **YOUNG LIBERALS**

**Whatsapp Code of  
Conduct**



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## Young Liberal's WhatsApp Code of Conduct

### Rules

1. **Be a member of the Young Liberals.** Members of the Young Liberals WhatsApp must be members of the Young Liberals, meaning a member of the Liberal Democrats who is under the age of 30 and/or is a student or apprentice. They must also be over the age of 18.
2. **External rules apply.** Members are expected to comply with all the rules of the Young Liberals and the Liberal Democrats, as well as Whatsapp.
3. **Keep it appropriate.** Do not post anything that is obscene, malicious, defamatory, threatening, or otherwise likely to bring the Young Liberals or Liberal Democrats into disrepute.
4. **Official Party Channel.** Whatsapp is an official party channel, and members should remember that when they use it, and how they represent the party within it.
5. **No discrimination of any kind.** Discrimination, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010, will not be tolerated.
6. **Act respectfully.** Members of the Young Liberals WhatsApp are expected to treat each other respectfully within this group.
7. **Avoid Confrontation.** While debate is fine and appropriate across WhatsApp, members should avoid unnecessary and heated confrontations. When in doubt, they should remove themselves from confrontational environments.
8. **No spam.** Do not spam the group by excessive posting or commenting in such a way that causes disruption.
9. **Use content warnings.** If you are posting content about a topic that is reasonably likely to cause distress to other members of the group please include a relevant warning at the top of the post so that they can choose to avoid the content if they so choose. However, members should consider before posting, if whatsapp is the appropriate place to discuss this topic.
10. **Use plain text.** If you are making a post where content displayed in an image is needed to understand the post please include a text-based

description of the post for the benefit of those who use screen readers or may otherwise be unable to view the image.

11. **Warnings and bans apply.** If a user breaks any of these rules they may receive a warning, a temporary ban, or a permanent ban depending on the severity of the infraction and the past behaviour of the user. These and other moderation decisions may be appealed by contacting the moderation team.

## Guidelines

These guidelines set out to further support admins and moderators in moderating the whatsapp.

WhatsApp is a place for Young Liberal members to have a place for discussion, both serious and non-serious. We encourage fun topics and discussions, and believe WhatsApp should be a place for both political and enjoyable discussions.

- **No Spam** - Spam will count as posts that do not encourage active discussion, or have been discussed previously within a reasonable timeframe (such as a week).
- **No personal attacks** - Critiquing the actions of individuals is allowed and encouraged, however, this should not be personal attacks, attacking individuals as people, and any actions which go beyond scrutiny towards bullying will not be accepted.
- **Deleting Messages** - Admins of chats are encouraged to delete messages in WhatsApp which do not comply with the Code of Conduct, and are not within the scope of the chat, if they see fit. Admins should keep a record on slack of the messages.
- **Bans** - These will be given if the admin and moderation team have voted on them with a majority, in increments of 24 hours, 48 hours, a week, a month, a year or permanently. All bans can be appealed via the Young Liberals Executive, but reasonable time must be allowed for this.
- **Warnings** - Admins are encouraged to give written warnings to members who are not behaving appropriately on the whatsapp. These messages should be short, to the point, and serve to remind members of the code of conduct
  - “Hi [insert name], please could you move the conversation on, or stop talking about that topic. It is not within the purpose of WhatsApp. Here is a link to the code of conduct as a reminder of what we expect on the whatsapp. Thank you.”
- **Act** - Unlike Forum, WhatApp lacks a filter, therefore, admins are empowered to act, where they feel it is appropriate and necessary under

these guidelines and code of conduct. Admins should keep a record on slack of decisions they made, and why.

- **The Admin Team** – The Admin Team will be made up of Young Liberals Executive Members and the staff member. For closed chats, moderators from those communities can be appointed, like the women's rep.