

Online Safety Classroom Agreement

Primary and secondary school



Teacher instructions

An **Online Safety Classroom Agreement** sets expectations for class members working, interacting and keeping each other safe online. It is a set of undertakings that a class develops together, agrees to and follows throughout the term or year. The agreement can be created at the beginning of the year as an introductory lesson for the class group or subject, to align with regular classroom behaviour agreements. It can be reviewed throughout the year to ensure it is up to date with the issues, experiences and technologies at your school.

Aim: To define, highlight and encourage safe and respectful online behaviours for all students. The agreement should be easy-to-understand and highly visible in the classroom. The agreement can be aligned with your school policies, behaviour codes and ICT and device use policies, as well as school values.

Step 1: Start the chat

Developing an Online Safety Classroom Agreement is a good opportunity to ‘start the chat’ about online safety and ensure it is understood in the context of every subject.

[eSafety has a range of classroom resources](#) that can be used to support the important conversations which will occur as you develop the agreement.

When introducing this activity to students, discussions can include:

- exploring what respectful behaviour looks, sounds, and feels like
- clarifying online safety terminology
- supporting student understanding of online rights and responsibilities
- setting out an agreed set of steps that will be followed when an issue arises.

Below are suggested questions to use with students to guide the process. Questions can be tailored to reflect the age and understanding of students in the class.

- What positive and negative experiences have you had online?
- What do you like most about being online?
- What do you like least about being online?
- What actions can you take to help others feel safer online?
- Who would you turn to for help with an online issue?
- Where would you go to report a serious online incident?

Note: Discussions may result in students disclosing personal wellbeing matters. Teachers may need to consider if appropriate professional support is required. Your school may have preferred services. Here are other [counselling and support services](#).

Let your class know that if anyone has a harmful experience online, they can reach out for support - even if it happens on an age-restricted platform and they're under 16.

Step 2: Create an agreement

The agreement should be in plain language and understood, agreed to and followed by the class.

Attached is an example of what the agreement could look like. As you discuss its development with your class you may find a format more appropriate to your needs, or your class may like to co-design their own agreement.

The template is based on the eSafety [Engage 5 Toolkit for Schools community charter](#). The words in the example are based on what children and young people told eSafety about the online world they want, as part of [eSafety's Safety by Design initiative](#).

The agreement should address social media age restrictions in line with your school or sector policies and procedures.

Online Safety Classroom Agreement for

We want to create an online environment that is safe, supportive and inclusive. As a class:

Encourage

We will **encourage** each other to work together and enjoy the benefits that the online world offers, such as education and engagement – without fear and without our rights or safety being put at risk.

Safe

We will keep each other **safe** and **secure** by not giving out personal, private or sensitive information online.

Accept

We will **accept** our responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of all by valuing each others' opinions and communicating respectfully.

Follow

We will **follow** our class and school rules when working online or responding to incidents.

Ensure

We will **ensure** that we ask for help if an online issue arises.

If an online issue arises, we will:

- support each other respectfully
- report any concerns and ask for help from our teachers, in a calm and respectful manner
- follow school procedures for making complaints and raising concerns.

Our teachers

will help us to:

- uphold these values
- develop online safety skills
- manage negative online experiences.

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If an online issue arises, we will:

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**Our teachers
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