

Family agreement

A family agreement is a great way to start a conversation with your whole family about how you all use the internet, and discuss together how to behave in a positive way when online at home, at school, at friend's houses etc. Bear in mind it is difficult to have complete control over your family's internet usage, however a family agreement is a great way to set clear expectations for positive and safe internet use.

Top tips

- 1 Make sure that both adults and young people are open to changing their online behaviour as a result of your agreement.
- 2 Make sure your agreement works for your whole family and everyone is happy with it.
- 3 Review your agreement in the future to make sure it reflects the current needs and ages of your family.
- 4 Consider your tone - Are you focusing on negative behaviour or promoting positive behaviour?

Starting questions

Who is this agreement for?

What do we use the internet for?

Adult's use

Young people's use

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Why are we creating this family agreement?

We agree to...

Eg, I will use kind words when online

Who is responsible for this?

Eg, We will all make sure we only post kind comments



What happens if someone doesn't follow the agreement?

Eg, revisit the agreement and discuss how it was broken

How long will our agreement last for?

How often will we review our agreement?

Signatures

Date: _____

Things to consider...

Keeping safe

- How safe is our personal information?
 - Do we have strong passwords? Eg capital letters, symbols etc
 - Do we all have usernames that don't reveal our full names?
- Have we considered parental controls which would be right for our family?
- Have we discussed online friendships and whether we can trust them?
- Do we need a family email address?
- Who will we talk to if we feel uncomfortable about anything we have seen or heard online or on a mobile phone or gaming device?
- When is it okay to download files, games or apps?
- Have we checked the reviews and ratings for apps and games?
- Which websites are okay for us to use?
- Should we open links from people we don't know?

Social networking

- Do we know the age requirements to be on social networks?
- Who can I post photos of online?
- Do I know why it is important for my accounts to be private?

Gaming

- Which age rated games can I play?
- Am I aware of why PEGI is important?
- Can I play online with people I don't know?

Positive online behaviour

- How can I be a good friend on the internet?
- What will I do if I receive frightening or bullying messages?

Healthy lifestyle

- How long can we spend online?
- Do we spend the same amount of time enjoying our offline activities?
- Where can we use our devices around the house?

Examples

Suggested ideas for an agreement with younger children.

We agree to...

I will use my tablet for _____ mins a day

We will make sure the children's favourite games are bookmarked for them to get to easily

Who is responsible for this?

Isabel and Phoebe

Mum and Dad

Suggested ideas for an agreement with pre-teen children.

We agree to...

I will tell mum and dad when I see something that worries me

We will put parental controls in place but review it as the children grow up

Who is responsible for this?

Jack and Tom

Mum and Dad

Suggested ideas for an agreement with teenage children.

We agree to...

I will make sure all my social networking sites are private and that I only accept requests from people I know

We won't post photos of our children without their permission

Who is responsible for this?

Jane, John and Ben

Mum and Dad