# A2 Learner Acceptable Use Agreement Template

This template has been significantly updated in January 2025 to take account of changes in digital technologies and behaviour and to simplify the agreement. Schools already using this template are recommended to adopt this new version as there are too many changes to make a “tracked changes” version relevant.

Sections that include advice or guidance are written in BLUE. It is anticipated that schools will remove these sections from their final acceptable use document. Schools should review and amend the contents of this agreement to ensure that it is consistent with their school policies. Schools will need to decide on the suitability of the statements/language used and may wish to amend these in light of the age/abilities of the learners.

### Introduction

Digital technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people, both within and outside schools. These technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. They can stimulate discussion, encourage creativity and stimulate awareness of context to promote effective learning. Learners should have an entitlement to safe access to these digital technologies.

### This acceptable use agreement is intended:

* to ensure that learners will have good access to devices and the internet, be responsible users and stay safe while using digital technologies for educational, personal and recreational use
* to help learners understand good online behaviours that they can use in school, but also outside school
* to protect school devices and networks from accidental or deliberate misuse that could put the security of the systems and users at risk.

### Acceptable Use Agreement

When I use devices I must behave responsibly to help keep me and other users safe online and to look after the devices.

### For my own personal safety:

* I understand that what I do online will be supervised and monitored and that I may not be allowed to use devices in school unless I follow these rules and use them responsibly
* I will only visit internet sites that adults have told me are safe to visit
* I will keep my username and password safe and secure and not share it with anyone else
* I will be aware of “stranger danger” when I am online
* I will not share personal information about myself or others when online
* If I arrange to meet people off-line that I have communicated with online, I will do so in a public place and take a trusted adult with me
* I will immediately tell an adult if I see anything that makes me feel uncomfortable when I see it online.

### I will look after the devices I use, so that the school and everyone there can be safe:

* I will handle all the devices carefully and only use them if I have permission.
* I will not try to alter the settings on any devices or try to install any software or programmes.
* I will tell an adult if a device is damaged or if anything else goes wrong.
* I will only use the devices to do things that I am allowed to do. (schools may wish to add anything that would not be allowed e.g. online games, file sharing etc.)

I will think about how my behaviour online might affect other people:

* When online, I will act as I expect others to act toward me.
* I will not copy anyone else’s work or files without their permission.
* I will be polite and responsible when I communicate with others and I appreciate that others may have different opinions to me.
* I will not take or share images of anyone without their permission.

### I know that there are other rules that I need to follow:

* I will only use my own personal devices (mobile phones/USB devices etc.) in the school if I have permission (schools should amend this section in the light of their mobile devices policies). If I am allowed, I still have to follow all the other school rules if I use them.
* I will only use social media sites with permission and at the times that are allowed (schools should amend this section to take account of their policy on access to social media).
* Where work is protected by copyright, I will not try to download copies (including music and videos).
* When I am using the internet to find information, I should take care to check that the information is accurate, as I understand that the work of others may not be truthful and may be a deliberate attempt to mislead me.
* I should have permission if I use the original work of others in my own work.

### I understand that I am responsible for my actions, both in and out of school:

* I know that I am expected to follow these rules in school and that I should behave in the same way when out of school as well.
* I understand that if I do not follow these rules, I may be subject to disciplinary action. This could include (schools should amend this section to provide relevant sanctions as per their behaviour policies) *loss of access to the school network/internet, detentions, suspensions, parents/carers contacted and in the event of illegal activities involvement of the police.*

**The school will need to decide if they will ask learners (and/or) their parents/carers to sign the AUA or whether it is sufficient to just make it clear that these rules should be followed and to re-enforce them through the year. The form below is provided for those schools that wish to have them signed.**

### Learner Acceptable Use Agreement Form

Please complete the sections below to show that you have read, understood and agree to the rules included in the acceptable use agreement. If you do not sign and return this agreement, access will not be granted to school systems. (Schools will need to decide if they require learners to sign, or whether they wish to simply make them aware through education programmes/awareness raising).

I have read and understand the above and agree to follow these guidelines when:

* I use the school systems and devices (both in and out of school)
* I use my own devices in the school (when allowed) e.g. mobile phones, gaming devices USB devices, cameras etc.
* I am out of school and involved in any online behaviour that might affect the school or other members of the school.

Name of Learner: Group/Class:

Signed: Date:

Parent/Carer Countersignature (optional)

It is for schools to decide whether or not they require parents/carers to sign the parent/carer acceptable use agreement (see template later in this document in the Parent/Carer AUA). This includes a number of other permission forms (including digital and video images/biometric permission/cloud computing permission).

Some schools may, instead, wish to add a countersignature box for parents/carers to this learner acceptable use agreement.

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