

THE PACT

You have access to internet-connected devices (smartphones, tablets, PCs, smart TVs, gaming consoles...), but such powerful tools come with great responsibility: essentially, you've been given something that no generation before you has had from birth. However, this responsibility does not lie solely with you: you're under age and so it's your parents or the people caring for you who also pay for the mistakes you make.

Keep an eye on me, but let me have a go.

Child's pledge to parent (or other guardian):

- **1.** I have access to internet-connected devices; I need to be **responsible** in how I use them and look after them properly.
- 2. I will only **block** outsiders from accessing these devices, not you.
- **3.** I'm creating my **digital identity**, something that I will build bit by bit and, for better or for worse, will stay with me for my whole life.
- **4.** The amount of information that will come my way will be huge. The only filter I have will be my **upbringing** and my own **awareness**.
- 5. I will not use technology to lie, make fun of or deceive another human being and I will not involve myself in conversations that may be hurtful to anyone, especially me.
 I will not be profiled as a victim or tormentor.
- **6.** I will not send, disseminate or ask for images of my private parts or anyone else's. I'm aware that it could ruin my life, or other people's lives, in the future. A **bad reputation** from any mistakes I might make online would haunt me forever.
- **7.** I will learn how to use an internet-connected smartphone **without becoming dependent on it** and without it taking over my life. Being in control can help others, too.

Parent's pledge to child:

My own upbringing has given me the information I need to protect you in the physical world, but I don't have enough information to defend you in the ever-evolving digital world.

Just like in the physical world, I pledge not to leave you to fend for yourself in the digital world either.

If, in the future, there's something you don't understand or something happens that you don't know how to deal with, talk to me about it and we'll find a solution together.

We're not born digital, but life is a training ground for all solutions.

The advice you're about to read is meant to help you think; remember that your brain is the best antivirus in the world.

- 1. The smartphone licence is a **loan based on responsibility**. Whether you keep your licence or not will depend on your behaviour: after all, your driving licence gets taken off you if you make a mistake. By law, **I am the one who will also be responsible** until you come of age.
- 2. Learn to communicate well with digital tools, too: you've no idea just how much what you say or write determines what people think of you.
- **3.** You're quick at typing but remember that **speed** does not always equate to **intelligence**.
- **4.** The things that will stay with you over your lifetime are **memories** and **experiences**. Live your life and don't just watch other people's on a screen.
- **5.** Social networks will be companions that help you broaden your knowledge; don't become a **slave** to them.
- **6.** In a world where it's all too easy to leave a trace, but all too difficult to erase those traces permanently, remember that **your digital life counts just as much as your physical life**. **The virtual is real**.

Place and date signed	
Signature of parents or other guardian	Signature of child