

# CHILDREN'S MANIFESTO ON RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

Carried out as part of a digital education project of the Authority for Children and Adolescents through a process of listening to primary school pupils.

## AS CHILDREN, WE HAVE THE RIGHT...

### EDUCATION

...to a digital education and to connect to content and services appropriate for our age.

We have the right to be informed about the digital world, in all its aspects, by people who are competent and able to show both the positive aspects and the risks of the internet.

Knowledge of the digital world shall be guaranteed to everyone according to their age, without hiding or demonising any side of the internet. Educators shall be able to present topics in an engaging and unprejudiced way.

We have the right to digital education at school with the issuance of a diploma to access the web, after attending compulsory courses.

### PROTECTION

...to surf the web in a safe, welcoming and age-appropriate environment, without the risk of facing words, images, videos or invitations that intimidate us or put ourselves and our well-being in danger.

Adults have a duty to protect us from abuse, violence, mistreatment and any form of pressure, aggression, blackmail, denigration, defamation, identity theft, unlawful acquisition and circulation of personal data, and misrepresentation from dishonest people that we may encounter in the digital world.

### RESPECT

...to be ourselves in the digital world, and to be protected and secured with respect to our digital identity.

We have the right to have our own ideas and emotions and to express them and our way of being on the web. Children and adolescents must not be abused, offended, mocked or insulted through social media; everyone has the right to express themselves and their thoughts through words, images or in other ways, respecting other people and without being offended by inappropriate comments and, above all, feeling free without the pressure of being accepted by a particular group and the web community.

Adults shall commit to teaching us to recognise all forms of bullying and cyberbullying in order to promptly take action.

### FRIENDSHIP

...to cultivate protected and reliable friendships with whom we can play, converse and share our emotions, using the opportunities offered by the web, in a safe and secure digital environment where we can find useful and accurate information.

We have the right to a digital environment that allows us to share information with our peers, without the risk of disclosing and circulating our personal information.

We have the right to use digital tools to maintain relationships with friends, parents and relatives who live far away.

### HEALTH

...be informed about the health risks associated with the use of digital technologies and to use tools that can minimise the risks to our health.

Adults have the duty to supervise us when using digital tools, helping us regulate how and when we use them.

### INCLUSION

...to have equal opportunities to access the web, regardless of geographical area and socio-economic background.

All children, including the most fragile, have the right to use appropriate IT tools in a correct and safe way, regardless of their physical, linguistic and cultural conditions, in order to achieve digital literacy.

Children with disabilities, both physical and mental, according to their different degrees of severity, have the right to access to assistive technologies with aids, tools and technical solutions that enable them to overcome or reduce their disadvantage and to access information and digital services, in order to make them autonomous and make them fully participate in the digital world.

### DIGNITY

...to enforce our dignity and privacy, even when we are the ones making mistakes and committing imprudence by sharing on the internet our information and personal data. In such cases, we always have the right to delete content that we no longer like or that we have carelessly uploaded.

Children's photos should be considered private and no one should be able to exploit them. All children must consent to adults posting their photos on social media.

### PLAY

...to access safe and welcoming play spaces in the digital world that fit our needs, without being interrupted by constant advertising and without being exposed to risks and manipulation.

All children have the right to have time to play because play is a fundamental part of our lives and indispensable for good mental and physical health. In digital play, however, adults need to be very vigilant so that it does not become an addiction and does not lead us to isolate ourselves in the web.

### FAMILY

... to live in a welcoming and stimulating environment and to be supported, guided, protected and helped to overcome obstacles to realise our future.

Parents shall inform us on how to use digital tools, help us understand and experience the digital world safely; they shall also set rules on the use of these tools that we must respect.

Family is very important to us and it is nice when, instead of playing with digital devices, we play with mum and dad.

### DISCONNECTION

...to remain disconnected during social events and activities involving ourselves and the adults in our care, in order to develop and improve our interpersonal skills.

