Children's Commissioner
Promoting and protecting childen's rights

Children's Commissioner's website

Get Involved discussion house rules

Our Get Involved discussion section is a great place to share your views and see those of others about issues of importance to children and young people.

All messages on our discussion board are **moderated**. This means that your message will not appear on our website unless we have approved the message. We aim to approve all messages within 48 hours of posting.

Before you get involved in any discussions, please read our house rules.

If anything discussed in these pages worries or upsets you and you want to speak to someone, then please contact Childline. They are free to call and open 24 hours a day. Their number is 0800 11 11.

House rules

The decision to approve and post comments remains with the Children's Commissioner and her team. We **will not** approve comments that do any of the following:

1. **Disclose sensitive information, for example reporting of abuse or issues surrounding your care.**

When you post on our discussion pages lots of other people will be able to see it. Please do not post anything about you that is private, for example information about your care.

2. **Disclose personal information e.g. name, address, location, age or any information which could be used to identify you.**

There is some information about you which you should keep private such as your address and age. If you're not sure, you should ask a parent or guardian for advice. When choosing a username, please do not use your real name or anything that may identify you. If you represent an organisation and wish to be identified, then you may post under your organisation's name.

3. **Disclose anything which breaches local, national or international law.**

Please do not post anything which might be illegal, or against the law. If you're not sure you should ask a parent or guardian for advice.

4. **Link to or promote petitions. We cannot be seen to endorse or promote other organisations.**

Please do not post anything on our wall which asks us to sign something or show our support for a particular cause or campaign. Although we sometimes support campaigns we only do so after careful consideration following direct requests to relevant staff and will not do so following a post on these pages.

5. **Advertise, including spam, commercial or charitable events.**

Please do not post things which have nothing to do with children, young people, the Children's Commissioner or the topic nor. chain mail or information about events which we have not agreed to attend.

6. **Disclose information not known to the general public at the time of posting.**

   Please don't post about anything that is not yet common knowledge or might be a secret, for example if you think your school might be having an event but they haven't told anyone yet.

7. **Disclose anything which may be in breach of any legal duty owed to a third party, including a contractual duty or duty of confidence**

This means posting anything which might be illegal, or against the law. Most things you post should be fine, but if you're not sure you should ask a parent or guardian for advice.

8. **Impersonate any person or misrepresent your identity or affiliation with any person (including implying that such content emanates from us, if this is not the case)**

Please don't pretend to be someone else, for example pretending you are a celebrity or another adult or child. Although you should keep some things about yourself private such as your age or your location, this doesn't mean you should lie about who you are.

9. **Promote illegal activities**

Please do not talk about or encourage others to get involved in things which are against the law, such as drinking alcohol if you are underage or taking drugs.

10. **Use profane or obscene language**

Please do not use swear words or other rude words which you think might upset other people. Please do not use violent or aggressive language.

11. **Divulge hate speech against ethnic/religious/sexual/age groups**

Please do not say nasty things about people'sethnicity (background), religion (who they worship), sexuality (who they are attracted to e.g. men, women or other) or age.

12. **Disclose unlawful, libellous or defamatory statements**

Please do not say something harmful or nasty about another person whether that is someone in your school, or your friend or family.

13. **Discuss meeting with other individuals or speaking with other individuals outside the discussions.**

The Get Involved section is a great way to talk to other people and share your views and opinions. However, please do not discuss meeting up with others you speak to, as it may not be safe,

14. **Upload links to other websites or content which we may deem to be inappropriate, contain viruses or other harmful programmes**

Please do not upload links to content that may upset or be unsuitable for other people, particularly children. This includes videos and/or photos.

15. **Post rude or offensive comments**

Please do not say nasty things about people that might be seen as bullying or might upset someone.

16. **Post under lots of different usernames**

Please do not use multiple different usernames and try to confuse or upset other individuals on the site.

Closing discussion topics

We want to keep discussion topics open as long as possible to ensure as many people can share their views and opinions with others.

However, we may decide to close a discussion topic for some of the following reasons…

1. The conversation moves away from the original topic. This can be confusing for new people joining in on the discussion.

2. If one individual is dominating the conversation. We want lots of people to have a say in the discussion forums.

3. If a thread begins to upset individuals, becomes personal or begins an argument.

4. If no-one has posted in the thread for a long time.