



Australian Government  
Office of the Australian  
Information Commissioner

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

# Children's Online Privacy Code Worksheet

Years 3–6  
Primary school-aged children

*Have your voice heard*



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of the land we live on – Australia. They were the first people to live on and use the land and waters.

# Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Who are we?.....	3
What is privacy? .....	3
<b>About the Code.....</b>	<b>4</b>
What is the Children’s Online Privacy Code? .....	4
Why do we need a Children’s Online Privacy Code? .....	4
When will we finish writing the Children’s Online Privacy Code? .....	4
Where can I see a copy of the Children’s Online Privacy Code? .....	4
How can I help? .....	4
How do I submit my responses? .....	4
<b>Activity 1 Introduction to privacy .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Activity 2 ‘Day in the life of a Privacy Police Officer’ .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Key terms .....	7
Scenario brainstorm.....	7
<b>Scenario 1</b> The creepy ads – are they reading my mind? .....	8
<b>Scenario 2</b> The secret settings – why is this so hard? .....	9
<b>Scenario 3</b> The sneaky tracker – where am I?.....	10
<b>Scenario 4</b> The internet never forgets – help! I want it gone! .....	11
<b>Scenario 5</b> The impossible terms and conditions – can someone explain this?!.....	12
<b>Scenario 6</b> Parental controls – should parents be in charge? .....	13
<b>Other privacy concerns .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Submit your answers to us.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>How to get help .....</b>	<b>15</b>

# Introduction

## Who are we?

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) wrote this worksheet. When you read the word ‘we’, it means the OAIC.

We are the Australian Government’s privacy regulator, and our goal is to protect the privacy of Australians. You can think of us as like ‘privacy police’. We are responsible for writing the Children’s Online Privacy Code.

### ***What is the OAIC?***

*We are the Australian Government’s privacy regulator, and our goal is to protect the privacy of Australians.*

When we refer to ‘children’ we mean people under the age of 18. This worksheet is for children in years 3–6 (8–12 year olds).

You can ask for help to read this worksheet. A friend, family member or support person might be able to help you.

## What is privacy?

All human beings have a right to privacy. Privacy means that you get to make decisions about the things that affect you, that you get to think and believe what you want, and that you get to control your own body. The right to privacy means you get to choose when to give other people information about you, and what they do with that information. This is especially true when it comes to personal information, which is things like your name, your birthday, or the address of your home.

Privacy can be hard for children to understand because you often have to give up your privacy. Your teachers and parents make decisions for you lots of the time, and you may have to share a room with your brothers and sisters so you’re not used to having your own space! But as you get older you’ll get more access to privacy. In the meantime, when you’re a child it’s even more important that the adults around you protect your personal information.

## You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person might be able to help you. If you speak a language other than English and need help with this document, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on [131 450](tel:131450) and ask the operator to contact the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner on [1300 363 992](tel:1300363992).



# About the Code

## What is the Children's Online Privacy Code?

This Code is a special set of rules we are making to help protect children's privacy when using the internet.

It makes sure that organisations who run apps, websites and games that children might use take care of their personal information (like their name, age and what they like to do online).

## Why do we need a Children's Online Privacy Code?

We are writing the Code to help make the internet a place that protects the privacy rights of children. The Code is different from the social media age restrictions that say children under 16 shouldn't be allowed to use social media.

This Code isn't about keeping you off the internet, it's about making sure websites, apps, games and social media follow rules to help keep your personal information private and protected.

## When will we finish writing the Children's Online Privacy Code?

The Code will be ready and in place by **10 December 2026**.

## Where can I see a copy of the Children's Online Privacy Code?

When the Code is in place, you will be able to see it on our website:

[www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au).

## How can I help?

We have created two activities in this worksheet for you to do. Please send us your answers when you're finished!

## How do I submit my responses?

Submit your answers by emailing this completed worksheet to [copc@oaic.gov.au](mailto:copc@oaic.gov.au) or answer the questions through one of the online forms which you can access from the [Children's online privacy code consultation](#) page on our website.

The due date for this worksheet is **30 June 2025**.

We might publish your response on our website. It will be anonymous: this means that no one will know who you are or what responses you submitted. Please don't write your name or any personal details (like your birthday or where you live) on this worksheet.



## Activity 1

# Introduction to privacy

Privacy means keeping some things to yourself and only sharing them with people you trust, like your parents or best friends.

Just like you don't want someone looking through your backpack without asking, you don't want apps or websites taking your personal information, like your name, photos or favourite games, without permission.



Think about the following question and write down what you think in the space below.

### Question 1

Think of a time when your friend or parent shared a photo of you that you didn't want shared. How did that feel? How do you want to feel when you're sharing information online?

### Potential ideas

1. I want to feel protected when I share information online
2. I want to feel respected when I share information online
3. I don't mind if people share things about me online

### Your answer

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Think about the following question and write down what you think in the space below.

### Question 2

If your personal information (like your name, birthday or address) was in a treasure chest, who should have the key to open it and who shouldn't?

#### **Potential ideas**

1. I only want people I allow to open it
2. I do not want strangers to have a key to open it
3. I don't really mind who has the key, it doesn't bother me

### Your answer

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## Activity 2

# ‘Day in the life of a Privacy Police Officer’

Below are some important things to know about to help you do the next activity.

### Key terms

<b>Apps</b>	a computer program or software that has been created for a particular purpose, like a reading skills app that you download onto a mobile device, like a phone, iPad, or laptop.
<b>Privacy settings</b>	who can contact you or see your profile.
<b>Location tracker</b>	technology that shows your location.
<b>Notifications</b>	a digital message from an app or website to the person using it.
<b>Parental controls</b>	a feature of a device, app or website that allows parents to monitor or restrict what their children see or do online, including the ability to control how their child’s data is shared.
<b>Personal information</b>	information about who you are or what you do.
<b>Privacy policy</b>	explains what the app or website does with your data.
<b>Data</b>	a collection of facts or information, like the colours of your toys or how many siblings you have.
<b>Data sharing</b>	the process of making data available to other users, websites, apps or businesses.



### Imagine this...

You’ve just been given a super important job. You are Privacy Commissioner for the day! That means that you’re now the boss who gets to make the rules for protecting the privacy of children on the internet! Think of yourself as like ‘privacy police’.



The whole online world is in your hands, and it is up to you to decide what should happen to protect everyone’s personal information. What rules are you going to create?

### Scenario brainstorm

Below are some real-life situations that could happen online. Read them, and then answer the questions at the end of each scenario.

#### TIP

Think about what organisations could do to make it easier for you to understand what they do with your personal information.



## SCENARIO 1

### The creepy ads – are they reading my mind?

You search the internet for a toy that everyone has been talking about at school. A few days later every website you visit, and every game you play online, is filled with ads for this toy. This is called targeted advertising: businesses track what you search for or click on and use that information to show you ads.

### Questions

Do you think organisations should be allowed to use your personal information to show you ads? Why do you think this?

How do you think organisations could do a good job of explaining to you what they do with your personal information?

### Potential ideas

Here are some potential ideas. Can you think of some more?

1. Organisations should explain who they are sharing my personal information with.
2. Children should know why they are being shown a certain ad.
3. I like when organisations use my personal information to show me ads.



### TIP

If apps and websites could talk, what would you want them to say or ask you before they collect your personal data?

### Your ideas

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## SCENARIO 2

### The secret settings – why is this so hard?

Privacy settings are controls that let you choose what information you share online and who can see it. You are playing your favourite game but want to make your gaming profile private, so that only friends can see when you are online and information about you, like your high scores. But when you go to the privacy settings, it's confusing, with lots of tricky words and small buttons hidden in menus. It takes so long to figure out that you just give up.

### Question

How can organisations make privacy settings easier to find and understand?



### Potential ideas

Here are some potential ideas. Can you think of some more?

1. I should get reminders to check my privacy settings regularly.
2. There should be help pages with simple instructions about how to use my privacy settings.
3. It is already easy to find and use privacy settings.



### Your ideas

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## SCENARIO 3

### The sneaky tracker – where am I?

You and your best friend are talking about an app that you both use to send messages to each other. Your best friend tells you that they saw on the app that you were at the grocery store on the weekend. You check your settings and realise that all your friends on the app can see where you are all the time, even when you are not using it. You feel like the app is spying on you!

### Questions

Should apps or websites be allowed to track where you go?  
What can apps or websites do to help you understand when to say 'yes' or 'no' to sharing your location?

### Potential ideas

Here are some potential ideas. Can you think of some more?

1. Apps should have reminders that tell me when location tracking is on.
2. Apps should explain clearly why they are tracking me.
3. Apps already make it clear when my location is being tracked.



### Your ideas

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## SCENARIO 4

### The internet never forgets – help! I want it gone!

You recently started playing a new game online. This game has a chat function, and you sometimes share information to other users about yourself, like what your favourite colour is. You want to know what personal information the game stores about you and update it so it's correct, but you can't figure out how to, so you just give up.



#### Question

How can organisations make it easier for children to update or change the data held about them?

#### Potential ideas

Here are some potential ideas. Can you think of some more?

1. Organisations should have a help page where I can easily ask questions.
2. My profile settings should show me what information an app or website stores about me.
3. I think organisations already make it easy to update or change data held about me.



#### Your ideas

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## SCENARIO 5

### The impossible terms and conditions – can someone explain this?!

You download an exciting new game but before you can play it, you should read the app's privacy policy. But it is SO long and full of big words that don't make sense! So instead of reading it, you just start playing without knowing what you are agreeing to. Little did you know, you have just agreed for the game to sell your personal information to others.



### Question

How could privacy policies be written for children?

### Potential ideas

Here are some potential ideas. Can you think of some more?

1. Privacy policies must be short, clear and written in a way children understand.
2. Organisations should have an easy-to-read one-page summary of their privacy policy.
3. All the privacy policies I have read are easy to understand, and if I don't understand it, I always ask my parents.



### Your ideas

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## SCENARIO 6

### Parental controls – should parents be in charge?

Your parents finally give you permission to download a video sharing app that your big brother is on. They tell you that you are only allowed to use it to look at sport videos, like soccer and basketball. There is also one other condition: you must have parental controls turned on. This means that they will be able to do things like control your privacy settings.

#### Questions

Do you want your parents/carers to control what personal information you share online, or not? Why do you think this?

#### Potential ideas

Here are some potential ideas.  
Can you think of some more?

1. I should control what personal information I share online, not my parent.
2. My parent/carer should control what personal information I share online.



#### Your ideas

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## Other privacy concerns

You can also include any other ideas about online privacy in the textbox below.

*Your other ideas*

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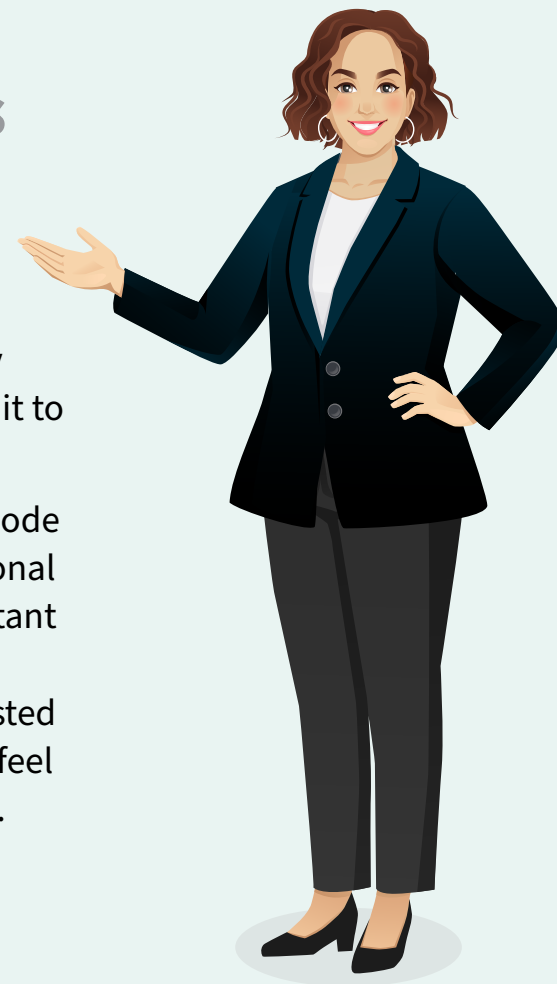
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## Submit your answers to us

Now that you have filled out the textboxes under the scenarios above, you can submit it to the Privacy Commissioner by emailing it to [copc@oaic.gov.au](mailto:copc@oaic.gov.au).

And remember, while the Code will help protect your personal information, it's still important to be careful when you're online. Always talk to a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right or if you are confused.





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## How to get help

If you want to speak to someone about anything you read here, you can call [Kids Helpline's Counselling Service](tel:1800551800) on [1800 55 1800](tel:1800551800). It is free and confidential, which means that they won't know who you are.

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