

THE AGILE JOURNEY

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Tips for embracing an agile mindset

1 Agile is a way of thinking

You can't learn to be 'agile' from a textbook. There is no single definition of agile. Today, agile encompasses:

- Frameworks** - such as Scrum, SAFe® and AgilePM®
- Behaviours** - like collaboration and transparency
- Concepts** - e.g. working iteratively and incrementally
- Techniques** - such as burn charts and user stories.



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Agile is not about having to use technology and software

In effect, we often talk about being 'low tech' for communications. Think post-it notes and good old-fashioned face-to-face communications. Quite refreshing for a change!



4

Understand the power of a self-organised team

Recognise that those closest to the work are the people best placed to do it. Greater involvement means team members are more likely to own and commit.

3 Focus on value

Value should be viewed from all angles. For example:

- » in a project embracing an agile approach, value may be seen as the 'net benefit' (after factoring in expenditure).
- » consider work being done - will writing detailed requirement documentation at the beginning really add value? (Typically in an agile environment the answer is 'no' since we embrace and expect change).



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Agile should be seen as a means to an end and not an end in itself.

PRINCE2 Agile®, AXELOS 2018

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Avoid overdoing agile terminology

Don't suddenly talk epics, backlogs and spiking to your customers. You can introduce some agile terms but translate them into everyday business language.

6

Start small

Agile isn't an on/off switch. You can introduce agile behaviours, concepts and techniques incrementally. Be agile - start with one team, experiment, learn, share lessons, grow 'agile' experts.



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Agile is not just for IT

It may have started in the IT arena but agile approaches are used across industries, including construction, manufacturing, healthcare and education.



8 Agile is not about throwing away all existing processes

It can start with looking at what works with an agile mindset; it's about adjusting, learning, embracing, and recognising that organisations need to be more responsive to change. For instance, agile ways can be blended with existing project management methods - think PRINCE2 Agile®.



9

Embracing agile in your organisation doesn't happen overnight

It is a culture change for many - to be successful it needs support from the top; a consistent view of what agile means to your organisation needs to be socialised at all levels.



Agile is not just a buzzword floated by the C-suite to drive greater productivity. Its proven power is fast becoming an adopted practice across every large (and not-so-large) organisation. PM-Partners Agile Pathway is designed to help people, teams and organisations along their agile journey. [You can learn more here](#) or call 1300 70 13 14.

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