

Informed Consent

Kidblog is an Internet based blog site that houses its servers on United States soil. It is a "Fenced" blog site with a limited, bounded set of users. The only users that can participate are the teacher and the students. Kidblog is designed for K-12 teachers who want to provide each student with an individual blog. Students publish posts and participate in academic discussions within a secure classroom blogging community. Teachers maintain complete control over student blogs and user accounts. Students will be assigned a username and password to log into Kidblog.

What is blogging? A blog is a website for which an individual or a group frequently generates text, photographs, video or audio files, and/or links, typically (but not always) on a daily basis. The term is a shortened form of weblog. Authoring a blog, maintaining a blog or adding an article to an existing blog is called "blogging". Individual articles on a blog are called "blog posts," "posts," or "entries". The person who posts these entries is called a "blogger." (Wikipedia) Here is an animated explanation and review of safety that students will review at school (<http://www.brainpop.com/english/writing/blogs/>)

Blogging has become a great way to get students reading and writing. Our blog is going to be used for group discussions and the sharing of learning, ideas, information and resources that focus on school related topics. It is an opportunity for students and teachers to collaborate on assignments. Each child will have a blog page to design and add entries. This page will only be visible to the teacher and students in our class. Students will be shown log on procedures and discuss acceptable use in our computer classes. When writing blog posts students will be responding to questions posed by the teacher and peers. When responding to student blogs it is expected that students respond to blog posts with positive and supportive comments. Blogging provides us with a way to extend our thinking and connect our ideas with each other and students. Students that post inappropriate or negative comments will not be allowed to participate. This will help students learn to be good digital citizens.

Kidblog Terms of Service (<http://kidblog.org/home/terms-of-service/>)

ACCEPTABLE USE

The purpose of the use of Kidblog is to facilitate communications for education by providing access to unique resources and an opportunity for collaborative work. To remain eligible as a user the use of your account must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives.

Transmission of any material in violation of any Canadian or International regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyright material, threatening or obscene material, illegal material or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities is generally not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is prohibited.

The School reserves the right to review any material on user accounts and to monitor file server space in order to make determinations on whether specific uses of the network are inappropriate.

Adapted from original document created by T. Cameron. Changes may occur; this document is current as of terms of service on Sept. 8, 2014. Check with your own school to make sure it meets your school's privacy policy. Review completed by Breanne Quist.

SECURITY

- Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. A user must never allow others to use his/her password. Users should also protect their passwords to ensure system security and their own privileges and ability to continue use of the system.
- If you feel you can identify a security problem on Kidblog you must notify a system administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users.
- Attempts to log on to Kidblog as a teacher/administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges.
- The teacher/site administrator will deny any user identified as a security risk for having a history of problems with other computer systems to Kidblog.
- ***Kidblog's Privacy Policy:*** <http://kidblog.org/home/privacy-policy/>

ENCOUNTER OF CONTROVERSIAL MATERIAL

Users may encounter material, which is controversial, and which users, parents, teachers or administrators may consider inappropriate or offensive. However, on the Internet it is impossible to control the content of data and a user may discover controversial materials. It is the user's responsibility not to initiate access to such material. The School shall not be held liable for any decision to restrict or regulate access to Internet materials.

ETTIQUETTE

All communications and information posted on Kidblog via the Internet should be assumed to be the private property of those who posted it. All users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. All users are expected to behave as they would in any other environment where they represent their school. It is important that users conduct themselves in a responsible, ethical, and polite manner in accordance with the standards of propriety in the District.
- B. Users may not:
 - use abusive, vulgar, profane, obscene, harassing, or other inappropriate language;"
 - criticize the spelling, writing or keyboarding of others;
 - re-post personal electronic mail received to public forums without the permission of the author.
 - share password(s) with others;

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- distribute or use anyone else's account name and password;
- reveal your personal address or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
- transmit or post threatening, abusive, obscene or harassing material
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Please keep page 1-3 for your records and complete page 4 to be sent back to me for my records. Thank you.

Teacher Name

Contact Information

Kidblog

I, _____, agree that my child, _____, will adhere to the expectations, terms and conditions attached as **“Specific Expectations, Terms and Conditions of Students Using Technology”** when using the above-named technology for a class assignment. I realize that if my child does not abide by these terms and conditions they may expose theirs or other people’s personal information to unauthorized third parties, leading to an invasion of their or other people’s privacy.

I, _____, agree to the collection, use, disclosure and storage of my child, _____’s, personal information inside or outside of Canada while using the technology described above for the purposes of engaging in classroom activities. I am aware of, and understand the identifiable privacy risks as described above.

I, _____, **do not give consent for my child**, _____, to participate in any activities using Kidblog. I understand that my child will be given alternate assignments similar to those that use Kidblog.

We understand the privacy risks and management strategies as they have been shared with us.

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Received by teacher on: _____