

Teacher Documents



Overview: Twiducate is a closed “Facebook” type of social networking tool for young students. The setup of the page is very simple. The Twiducate messages are called “posts” and are at the top of the page. There is a section on the right side of the page which has a calendar, bookmarking, and the “class network”, showing how many classmates are online. The posting is easy to use and students can also respond to another’s post easily. It also has a chat tab for

instant chatting with others in the class. It is a simple platform that is good for young children to “get their feet wet” with social networking.

Privacy Points for Teachers

(Adapted from the Privacy Policy: <http://www.twiducate.com/privatepolicy.php> and Terms of Service: <http://www.twiducate.com/termsofservice.php>)

- Twiducate collects information about its users to maintain and improve the functionality of the service. This information includes, but is not limited to, IP address, browser type and geographic location. This information is private and only used by Twiducate to analyze trends and operate the service. Twiducate will never sell, rent or disclose your information to anyone unless they believe their terms of service have been violated, legal authorities have requested it, or a third party has acquired Twiducate.
- Twiducate is designed to be a safe environment for the education sector. Protecting the privacy of young children is especially important. They never ask for specific details regarding children. Teachers are encouraged to use alias names when entering students. Students should never enter an email address, home address, phone numbers or any other information deemed personal on twiducate.com. They don't want to know and will never ask for it!
- Protecting the privacy of teachers is also especially important. Twiducate only collects teacher email addresses to link the teacher’s network to their students and to provide updates and technical support (ie: forgotten student passwords). User email addresses will never be disclosed to anyone under any circumstances unless legal authorities have requested it. When you sign up with Twiducate, they don't even ask for your first name. They address you as your students do, Mr. or Mrs. So-and-So.
- Twiducate uses different safeguards to preserve the integrity and security of the users personal information. However, they cannot ensure or warrant the security of any information users transmit to twiducate.com and they do so at their own risk. Once Twiducate receives the users transmission of information, twiducate.com makes every effort to ensure the security of their systems. Please note that this is not a guarantee that such information may not be accessed, disclosed, altered, or destroyed by breach of any of their physical, technical, or managerial safeguards.

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- If users are under the age of majority where they live (18 years in Canada), they acknowledge that their parent, teacher or guardian has reviewed and accepted the terms of service on their behalf. If the user is a teacher, he or she represents that they have the authority to accept these terms on their students' behalf. By continuing to use the site, users indicate their acceptance of the terms of service, and all related policies and guidelines of twiducate.com
- Twiducate may only be used for lawful purposes. Users may not use Twiducate to post anything or to communicate anything which is illegal, offensive, or that violates the rights of any third party, including without limitation: copyrighted material, material judged by twiducate.com in its sole discretion to be defamatory, threatening, obscene or objectionable, material protected by trade secret or under any obligation of confidence, material that you do not have a right to transmit under any law or under contractual or fiduciary relationships, and material that promotes or provides instructional information about illegal activities, promotes physical harm or injury against any group or individual, or promotes any act of cruelty to animals.
- The materials appearing on Twiducate's web site could include technical, typographical, or photographic errors. Twiducate does not warrant that any of the materials on its web site are accurate, complete, or current. Twiducate may make changes to the materials contained on its web site at any time without notice. However, Twiducate does not, make any commitment to update the materials.
- Twiducate has not reviewed all of the sites linked to its internet web site and is not responsible for the contents of any such linked site. The inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement by Twiducate. Use of any such linked web site is at the user's own risk
- Twiducate is not responsible for material appearing in sections linking from their 'explore' section. Any material found here belongs to the linked website and is not affiliated with twiducate.com. Content from their log in 'ad' captchas aims to be kid friendly but is controlled by Solve Media and not twiducate.com directly.
- Users agree that all matters relating to the use of the Service shall be governed, controlled, interpreted and defined by and under the laws of the Province of Ontario and the Federal laws of Canada applicable therein without giving effect to any principles of conflicts of laws. Users also agree that any action at law or in equity arising out of or relating to their terms or the use of Twiducate will be filed only in a court located in Ontario, Canada and users irrevocably and unconditionally consent and submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of such courts for the purpose of any such action.

Parent Documents

What is Twiducate?

Twiducate is a Facebook-like site for young children. It enables students to make comments, post pictures and respond to others' comments— much like Facebook. It allows for chat while others from the class are online. Twiducate also enables students to post links to other sites so that other students can access those sites right from Twiducate. Twiducate is accessed via a web browser, such as, Safari, Explorer, and/or Firefox. Twiducate is password and classroom code protected and is only accessed by our class members. It is a closed or fenced site wherein only those students who are enrolled in our class may have access. I enter a list of students' codes directly on the site.

Why am I using Twiducate?

Twiducate is a wonderful springboard for teaching children about social networking in a safer environment than other such sites. Twiducate also fits in well with our communities unit we are doing. It allows students to work with another type of community whereby we can further develop our sense of classroom community through connections made with each other online. Students have a place where they can discuss, share, and contribute to each other's ideas and content that they have shared within the boundaries of our communities unit. Our focus will be around Aboriginal peoples' culture and communities.

Risks that could arise:

Twiducate's server is housed in Ontario, so the risk of others outside of our classroom having access to information on the Twiducate site is protected under "The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act" (FIPPA). Canada has strict laws governing protection of information. Please be aware, however, that access to the Twiducate site can still be granted. For more information regarding FIPPA, please refer to the following link;
http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00
Anytime we use an online source, we are at risk for personal information to be divulged.

What's 'personal information'?

"People have different standards of what they consider 'personal' information. Sharing over social media has done a fair bit to reset our expectation. Regardless of personal definition, if the information, data, or content could be used to identify you, it's 'personal information' – though professional or business contact information may be treated separately." 1(Henglstler, 2013). A student's personal information could include: name, date of birth, address, telephone number, email address, educational information, and anything that identifies an individual, including photographs. If any information, data or content could be used to identify you it is then qualified as "personal information".

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Why is BC so sensitive to privacy laws regarding data?

“Shortly after the 9/11 attacks on the US in 2001, the American government enacted the United States Patriot Act that allowed the United States government to search private and public data housed on servers on United States soil. At the time, The BC Medical Services Plan was hosting our provincial medical records in the United States. Unions in BC expressed concern over the ability of the American government to search through British Columbian’s personal medical records and histories. Ultimately, the rule is: if you transfer or authorize the transfer of your personal information outside of Canada, that data is subject to the laws and practices of the country where it sits – be it the United States, China, or India. (Remember that minors, under the legal care of an adult, cannot authorize such a transfer.) Not all locations have similar notions about your right to privacy. Since cloud computing is a relatively new technology, the laws and best practices governing it are still changing and there is a need to stay current.” 1(Hengstler, 2013)

Why is a consent form necessary?

Various provinces in Canada – and other jurisdictions across the world – have enacted laws to protect personal privacy. In BC, the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) covers all independent schools. It is one of the most defined privacy protection frameworks in Canada. PIPA states that ‘private bodies’ such as independent schools have defined legal requirements for handling your personal information when it is within their ‘custody’ and ‘control’. Generally, private bodies must make sure that your personal information cannot be stored or accessed outside of Canada without your expressed permission – ‘consent’ (Note: there are certain expectations in the law like data covered by treaties, etc.). PIPA states that your consent must be in writing, state to whom your personal information may be disclosed, and how your information will be used. Also, if you post personal information about others, their permission must also be secured.

What if I don’t want to consent?

You have the right as a parent/guardian to withhold consent to your child using Twiducate. Alternate activities will be provided to students in the event that parents/caregivers choose to withhold consent and that selection of an alternate activity will not affect a student’s grade.

Although Twiducate is as safe a site as can be there are still risks. Students do not sign up with any personal identifying information. They are coded and entered on the closed site by me. There is a password and classroom code for students to sign in with. Privacy risks can occur if a student shares the password and code with others. Another possible risk is that pictures and videos that have been posted online and have a URL address can be uploaded to Twiducate. This is something to keep in mind if for some reason there have been pictures or videos of your child posted online. For more information about Twiducate’s Privacy Policy, please refer to: <http://www.twiducate.com/privatepolicy.php>. Students cannot, however, post private pictures from their computer.

Please be aware that no matter how safe a site may seem, there is always the possibility of risk and that I will take every responsible measure to manage the possible risks.

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Information and reviews about Twiducate:

Twiducate site: <http://www.twiducate.com/>

Edshelf site: reviews: <https://edshelf.com/tool/twiducate>

Edtech review site: <http://edtechreview.in/index.php/reviews/234-twiducate-social-network-for-schools>

[1] Julia Hengstler is the Educational Technologist with the Faculty of Education at Vancouver Island University & an Instructor in Educational Technology. Please visit this site for more background information about her:
http://www.viu.ca/education/faculty/profiles/hengstler_j.asp

Informed Consent

As part of our course, students will be asked to post comments and links on “Twiducate” (<http://twiducate.com>). Twiducate is a “Facebook” like site for younger children. Twiducate is an online site that enables students to write comments respond to others’ comments, post links of other sites they have found, and chat with other students in our class when they are online. Access to the site is through an internet web browser, such as, Safari, Firefox, and Explorer. The site is password and classroom code protected and is only accessed by our class members only.

The purpose of using Twiducate for part of our communities unit is for students to be able to:

1. Experience another form of “Community” through social networking with a focus on our course topics.
2. Have a place where all class-members can discuss, share, and contribute to each others’ ideas and content shared.

Please note: If your child is unable to participate in this activity, an alternative activity will be provided. Giving your consent means agreeing 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 the class activity described above. You are aware of and understand the identifiable privacy risks as described above and will support the classroom teacher in minimizing the exposure of your child’s and other people’s personal information while your child is using the technology and review the materials the teacher provides.

Identifiable Privacy Risks:

Students will not need to include any personal information on the site to register. They are registered under my name and email address. However, Twiducate cannot control the content students include in any of their posts. As a result students must be very careful to not include any personal information in any of the content they post on Twiducate.

The Twiducate server is housed in Ontario, Canada. Canadian laws for privacy are very strict and fall under “The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act” (FIPPA). For more information about FIPPA please go to: http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00

Please keep page one for your records and complete page 2 to be sent back to me for my records. Thank you.

Teacher Name

Contact Information

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I, _____, parent or guardian of _____ agree to the use of Twiducate. We understand the privacy risks and management strategies as they have been shared with us.

Please check the box below if you request that your child use a pseudonym or remain anonymous online for the purposes of this class to minimize exposure of his/her or other people’s personal information to 3rd parties that are not part of this class or project or who are otherwise not entitled to this information:

[] By checking the box on the left, I request that my child use a pseudonym or remain anonymous online.

This consent is valid for the duration of the course (or end of the school year) unless revoked by me in writing and delivered to the teacher.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Received by teacher on: _____

Metadata

Tool / Resource Name: Twiducate

URL: <http://www.twiducate.com/>

Overview:

Twiducate.com is a free resource for educators. It is a medium for teachers and students to continue their learning outside the classroom. They attempt to fill a need for a more educationally focused, safe venue for teachers, schools, and home learners in a social networking environment.

Enrollment Requirements:

First name	
Last name	
User name	X
Email address	
Street address	
Postal code	
Phone number	
School / Organization	
Age	
Birthday	
Gender	
Group Code	X
Password	

Required user information that is displayed

User name	X
Email	

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Name	
Avatar	O
Location	

Tool Category:

Informational	X
Presentation	X
Storage	
Game	
Other	X

Grade level:

Primary (K-3)	X
Intermediate (4-6)	X
Middle School (7-9)	X
High School (10-12)	X

Subjects / Courses:

Math	
English	X
Science	
Social Studies	X
PE	
Health and Careers	X

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Fine Arts	
Applied Skills	

General information

Open / Closed	Closed
Server location	Canada
Tool privacy policy URL	http://www.twiducate.com/privatepolicy.php Last updated Dec 12, 2009
Tool terms of service URL	http://www.twiducate.com/termsofservice.php Last updated Dec 12, 2013
Minimum age requirement	None
iOS app	
Android app	

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