

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".

Adapted from original document created by J. Christensen. Changes may occur; this document is current as of terms of service on Sept. 16, 2014. Check with your own school to make sure it meets your school's privacy policy. Review completed by Breanne Quist.

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>

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