

Parent / Guardian Documents

What is DuoLingo?

Many teachers around the world already view DuoLingo as the perfect blended learning companion for their classrooms. Duolingo lessons give each student personalized feedback and practice, preparing them to get the most out of classroom instruction. Teachers can track all of their students in one place through the new dashboard.

Why am I using DuoLingo?

I am using this program with my students to help supplement their language learning. This program allows students to practice their writing, speaking and listening skills as they work through lessons. The students progress is tracked through experience points and each individual learner can set their own daily goals. For those students who wish to connect with friends, there is the ability to do so and check on their progress.

Risks that could arise

Since this program is an open program, anyone who is able to search for you can find you and start 'following' you, much like on Twitter. It is recommended that you use an obscure user name and do not upload a picture of yourself. Also, make sure to keep all personal data hidden and do not share any personally indefinable information with anyone.

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".

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 British Columbia Medical Services Plan was hosting our provincial medical records in the United States. Unions in British Columbia expressed concern over the ability of the American government to search through British Columbian's personal medical records and Changes may occur; this document is current as of terms of service on April 15, 2015. Review completed by Breanne Quist

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 DuoLingo. 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.

While no internet-based experience can ever be 100% risk-free, know that I will take every reasonable measure to manage expected risks.

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http://www.viu.ca/education/faculty/profiles/hengstler_j.asp