Learning with Google happens in school and at home

As students learn and grow, Google provides them with tools that help keep them safer online, whether they’re in school or at home.

What Google tools are students using in school?

Google for Education is your student’s digital backpack including Google Workspace for Education (with Google Classroom) and Chromebooks, that are designed for teaching and learning in school and classroom settings.

While other tools - like Search and YouTube - may be used for learning-related purposes, they may not necessarily be accessible from a supervised or school-issued Google account (powered by Google Workspace for Education) that adheres to a specific Terms of Service optimized for the needs of education leaders and schools.

For more, see our Guardian’s Guides to Google tools (goo.gle/guardians-guides).

What tools does Google have for use at home?

For learning at home, Google provides tools to parents and guardians, who know best what their child needs. This includes controls for their child’s personal account, like Family Link, which helps parents manage children’s devices and online activity, with features like app download approval, screen time limits, and location sharing. Other offerings that can help children explore their interests and creativity like YouTube Kids, Kids Space, and Teacher Approved Apps in the Play Store let kids and teens explore the web with age appropriate content.

And of course, learners need to grow into smart online citizens. That’s why we build curricula like Be Internet Awesome that teaches kids the skills they need to stay safe and be responsible online, along with resources and features for digital wellbeing. We also partner with organizations like CommonSense Media, ConnectSafely, and FOSI to help inform and guide families in protecting students online.

Parents and guardians can find resources on what tools their children are using in school and at home, and FAQs, on the Google Safety Center.
Frequently asked questions about Google for Education

What’s the difference between a school-issued Google account versus a personal account?

**School-issued Google Accounts** are created by schools for students and staff

Google for Education is a suite of tools— including Google Workspace for Education and Chromebooks—that is designed for teaching and learning in school settings. These secure, private accounts are managed by education administrators.

While at school, education administrators are in charge. With parental consent, school administrators can enable and disable individual Additional Services. There is no advertising in Google Workspace for Education Core Services, and user data from K-12 accounts is never used for ads personalization.

- Accounts are governed by the Workspace for Education terms of service and privacy policy.
- School administrators can enable and disable individual services, including other Google services that aren’t part of Workspace (YouTube, Search, Play).
- No advertising in Google Workspace for Education core services.

**Personal Google accounts** are created by users and/or parents and guardians

Other Google tools, like Google Search and YouTube, may be used for learning-related purposes, but may not necessarily be accessible from a supervised or school-issued Google Workspace for Education account. Personal Google Accounts are governed by Google’s Consumer Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, where ad targeting is blocked based on the age, gender, or interests for users under 18. Google provides tools like Family Link to help parents and guardians manage their children’s accounts, devices, and online activity, with features like app download approval and screen time limits.

There is no connection between a student’s school account and their personal account—meaning that any data from school does not follow learners into their personal account, nor does it follow them after they graduate.

- Accounts are governed by Google’s consumer terms of service and privacy policy.
- Advertising in Workspace services and users can optionally enable personalized advertising.
- No personalized advertising for U18 users.
With Google for Education, privacy and security are priorities – and the very foundation of our platform. All of our Google Workspace for Education Core Services – like Gmail, Google Calendar, and Classroom – share a common foundation: They’re secure by default, private by design, and free from advertising. While AI capabilities introduce new ways of interacting with our tools, our overarching privacy policies and practices help keep users and organizations in control of their data.

These core tools all meet rigorous national, and international compliance standards, including GDPR, FERPA, and COPPA. And schools and users always maintain the ability to control their data. Google Workspace for Education is built on our secure, reliable, industry-leading technology infrastructure and users get the same level of security that Google uses to protect our own services, which are trusted by over a billion users around the world every day. Chromebooks are designed with multiple layers of security to keep them safe from viruses and malware without any additional software required. Each time a Chromebook powers on, security is checked. And because they can be managed centrally, Chromebooks make it easy for school IT administrators to configure policies and settings, like enabling safe browsing or blocking malicious sites.

How does Google keep student data safe and secure?

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What types of data do Google Workspace for Education core services collect?

**Customer data** is the data you provide to Google when you access Workspace for Education, and the data created while using the service. It’s the emails, content of docs, and slides. **Service data** is the information Google collects while providing and administering the service. It includes information about security settings, operational details and billing information.

How is Core Workspace for Education data used by Google?

**How it is not used**

- Customers own their own data. Not Google. This means Google cannot use it for the profit of other customers and the data can only be used in line with their instructions.
- Customer data is not used for personalized ads or to profile students, build new products or sell to a third party.
- When using Google Workspace for Education Core Services, your customer data is not used to train or improve the underlying generative AI and LLMs that power Bard, Search and other systems outside of Google Workspace without permission. And prompts entered when interacting with tools like Duet AI are not used without permission beyond the context of that specific user session.

**How it is used**

- Google does use customer data to provide the core services, for example, Google processes your email address to send and deliver messages between teachers and students.
- Service data is used to provide and improve the service, improve current products, such as fixing bugs, for example. This type of data is anonymized and aggregated for privacy.

For more information, see our Google Workspace for Education privacy notice.
How does Google keep students from viewing inappropriate content?

Built-in default settings protect students designated as under the age of 18. Admins can prevent or allow access to services at the district, school, class, and individual student levels. For example, users designated as under 18 have a more restricted experience on YouTube and SafeSearch and Safe Sites enabled by default to screen out inappropriate results, preventing students from viewing unsafe websites.

Digital safety standards also apply to third-party EdTech apps and extensions that are featured in the Google for Education App Hub. Google for Education enables admins with application access control badges, app licensing, and context-aware access rules for scalable control and visibility.

What controls do parents have over what tech is used in school?

- Schools can provide consent on behalf of parents for the use of Core Services they enable. Individual parental consent is not required because Google acts as a data processor for content collected via the Core Services.
- While at school, administrators are in charge of students’ school-issued Google accounts, including what services they can access. Default settings help ensure your learner is viewing age-appropriate content.

Is Google for Education compliant with privacy laws like GDPR?

- The Google Workspace for Education systems, core services, and tools support compliance with rigorous local, national and international compliance standards, including GDPR, FERPA and COPPA.
- Chromebooks can be used in compliance with GDPR. Our Data Processing Amendment is designed to meet the adequacy and security requirements of the GDPR. For more, see our GDPR webpage.
- We regularly instruct independent auditors to review our data protection practices. An independent third-party auditor has verified that our practices and contractual commitments for Google Workspace for Education comply with ISO/IEC 27018 and ISO/IEC 27001, and are audited against SSAE 18 / ISAE 3402 Type II. For our full compliance offerings, see our Compliance resource center.

You can learn more about Google for Education’s commitment to privacy and security at Google for Education Privacy and Security page and FAQs, in our Google Workspace for Education Privacy Notice, and in a primer on some differences between Google Workspace for Education Core Services and Additional Services.