

Participant Information Statement

For the Parent/Carer 12/4/2024



Research Study:

Data privacy issues, young people, and the use of Google Workspace for Education

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1. What is this study about?

We are conducting a research study about Google Workspace for Education, an educational technology that includes Google Classroom, which is increasingly used in Australian high schools by students for learning. Its use accelerated during COVID-19 as part of supporting the ongoing provision of schooling during lockdowns. Google Workspace has now become a regular part of schooling in Australia and NSW. However, like other types of education technology, Google Workspace raises challenges for schools related to young people's digital right to privacy that are currently poorly understood, especially from the viewpoint of students, with new data privacy dynamics and risks likely as a result of the expansion of Big Technology firms in the education space.

This research aims to fill the gap in knowledge about the digital right to privacy, referring to each person's right to know and control the types of information collected from them and how it is used, by focusing on how students, parents and schools perceive and respond to issues of data privacy when using Google Workspace for Education.

It will contribute to shaping new practices and policies to protect students' digital privacy rights.

You and your child have been invited to take part. Taking part in this study is voluntary.

Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

2. Who is running the study?

Jen Grinham is the researcher conducting this study as the basis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at The University of Sydney. Her details are:

- Ms Jen Grinham
School of Art, Communication and English | Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences |
Discipline of Media and Communications | Digital Cultures program

3. Who can take part in the study?

You can complete a parent/carer online survey, and your child can complete a student online survey. If your child has another parent/carer they can fill out a separate parent/carer online survey as well.

Your child has been invited to take part in this study because of their age and experience with Google Workspace for Education. You have been invited to take part as their parent/carer.

The invitation to participate in the survey was sent with the permission of your school.

Please don't talk to other people about the study because it might influence the information provided.

4. What will the study involve?

You and your child will be asked to complete a separate survey, designed to be finished in 10 minutes, with 38 questions. Question types include multiple choice and open-ended, and are on your child's use of, and experiences with, Google Workspace for Education and their understanding of data privacy.

The survey is anonymous meaning that you and your child will not be identified as participants. Their school and any local details will also be deidentified.

If you or your child take part in the survey, you or they may refuse to answer any questions that you or they do not wish to answer.

At the end of the survey, you and your child will be asked if you agree to participate in a 30-minute interview. Only some people who consent to an interview will be interviewed. The interview will take place for students at their school at a time convenient to them and agreed to by the school. For parents it will be via Zoom videoconference, or at school if they prefer, at a time convenient to them. The interview will require a separate consent form which will be provided before the interview.

All children must have parent/carer permission to participate, as well as their own. Permission and consent will occur on the online surveys before they begin.

5. Can we withdraw once started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and your child, also meaning the person under your care, does not have to take part. Your child will be asked if they agree to take part if you decide they can.

Any decision will not affect current or future relationships with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney. It will also not affect you or your child's standing in the school, nor your child's grades.

It is possible to withdraw any time before submission of the survey, however once responses are submitted, they cannot be withdrawn. This is because they will be anonymous, and we will not be able to tell which one to withdraw.

6. Are there any risks or costs?

Aside from giving up time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study for you or your child.

7. Are there any benefits?

There are no direct benefits for you or your child from being in the study, such as financial gain.

8. What will happen to information that is collected?

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting information about you and your child for the purposes of this study.

Any information provided to us will be stored securely and we will only disclose identifiable information with your permission, unless we are required by law to release information. We are planning for the study findings to be published.

You and your child will not be individually identifiable in these publications. The school will also not be identifiable.

There will be no information obtained from your child's existing records at the school.

Anonymised extracts may be used to illustrate points in the PhD and used in other publications.

No third parties will have access to participants' information during or after the study.

Information will be de-identified and stored with restricted access. Electronic information will be stored securely on appropriate University of Sydney licenced platforms that comply with Cyber Security policies. Hard copy, or physical, information will be digitised and

stored on these platforms and hard copies will then be destroyed. After 5 years all information will be destroyed.

Access to this information will be solely by the researcher involved in this study, Jen Grinham, and her University of Sydney lead supervisor, Dr Justine Humphry.

9. Will I be told the results of the study?

You and your child have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You can receive this information, after publication, by providing your details on the consent form or by contacting Jen Grinham at jennifer.grinham@sydney.edu.au.

Feedback will be forthcoming at the conclusion of the study, and a written summary and video link will be sent to participants who have indicated they would like to receive them.

10. What if I would like further information?

When you have read this information, the following researcher will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have:

- Ms Jen Grinham
School of Art, Communication and English | Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences |
Discipline of Media and Communications | Digital Cultures program
Email: jennifer.grinham@sydney.edu.au | Phone: +61 0435 127 474

11. What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney, approval number 2023/597, according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the University:

Human Ethics Manager
human.ethics@sydney.edu.au
+61 2 8627 8176

This information sheet is for you to keep