# Global2 blogging platform

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Department of Education and Training (the Department) and schools use online learning services to support learning and teaching. This document provides information on one of the online services, Global 2. The following advice includes how to safely and responsibly use Global2 software and how to opt-out.

Global2 is the Department’s dedicated blogging platform provided by Edublogs. Global2 is built using WordPress technology, one of the most widely used web publishing tools globally.

### What are the benefits of using this software?

* Students can learn about online blogging and website publishing by curating their own blogs
* Students can share and showcase their schoolwork with their parents and carers
* Students’ digital literacy skills are developed
* Parents can interact with their child’s work by viewing and commenting on their child’s blog

### How is Global2 used in schools?

Global 2 provides students and teachers with an opportunity to learn and practice online blogging and web publishing. Students can create their own blogs, and gain skills and experience in writing for an audience, web publishing, content creation, moderation and privacy. These skills are aligned to the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

### How is student information handled?

**What information needs to be collected?**

* Students’ school email address

**Why is this information needed?**

* To control access to the service
* To prevent unauthorised access to students’ work

**Where is it stored?**

Student data is stored in data centres located in Australia.

**When could this information be accessed by others?**

* By support staff to solve access issues
* Where required by law

Please note that student information will never be used for advertising or marketing purposes.

### Safe and private use

### How are students kept safe when using Global2 software?

Schools and teachers have been provided with requirements/recommendations to minimise privacy issues when using Global2 software. Recommendations include moderation of blog posts/comments and setting privacy restrictions that discourage blog discoverability by search engines.

**How can parents and** **carers become involved with Global2?**

Parents and carers are encouraged to visit their child’s student blog (if they have one) and the school or class blog. Parents and carers can gain a better understanding of their child’s learning activities by viewing the content.

If a school has the ‘commenting’ function activated, parents/carers can interact further with blog posts, e.g. by writing words of encouragement on their child’s work or progress. When writing comments, parents/carers need to ensure that no personal or private information is provided. Please use this approach when entering your name; *Jane - Sally's mum* and not *Jane Brown.* These safety precautions, such as not using surnames when making blog comments, reduce the likelihood of a student being identified. See the list of what can and cannot be posted safely at the end of this form.

### How can parents and carers help protect their child’s information?

The eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) is Australia’s national independent regulator for online safety. The Department recommends parents and carers look at the eSafety website with their child and use the available resources together to help navigate the digital world safely. This webpage, [www.esafety.gov.au/young-people](https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people), is a particularly helpful place to start as it provides information about protecting identity, keeping accounts secure and how to safely share photos.

Additionally, parents and carers can help protect their child’s online information by:

* Talking to their child about what to post and what not to post online (see examples below)
* Reminding their child to keep passwords private from others, to minimise the risk of another person sharing their information
* Talking about appropriate uses of technology, including respectful online behaviour
* Following the Global2 safety recommendations when making blog comments, such as using a first name only to reduce the likelihood of a student being identified
* Reporting any suspicious communication to the school. Please note, the provider, Edublogs, will never contact parents/carers or students directly.

**Example information that can safely be put online using Global2**

* Class presentations
* Written classwork/assignments
* Class related media of schoolwork i.e. videos, photos
* Whiteboard notes

**Example information that should never be put online**

* Personal mobile or home phone number
* Health information
* Bank details
* Home address
* Another student’s private information
* Images or video of other students for which consent to publish has not been obtained.

**Example information that students should always be cautious of putting online**

* Personal photographs and video unrelated to schoolwork (consider whether these contain identifying information such as faces, uniforms and locations such as in front of the family home that may enable identification of your or other children)
* Information on racial or ethnic origin
* Religious beliefs or other opinions.

For more details on the Department Schools’ Privacy Policy visit:[**www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx**](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx)

## Global2 opt-out

### If you DO NOT want your child to have access to the Global 2 software, please contact your school directly to opt-out.