



Grok Learning – Privacy risks

Grok Learning platform can be found at <https://groklearning.com/> Grok Learning was created by a team of educators and software engineers with the aim of teaching more students how to program. The federal government has part funded the platform to allow access for Year 3-7 students at no cost. The platform steps students through the concepts of programming in either visual or text based languages. The courses that students can complete are self-paced, which enables students to work at their own speed and level.

The new Digital Technologies curriculum requires all students from Years 3-8 to learn how to program. Programming is the process that makes it possible to create digital applications such as computer programs, websites, and apps. Computers are unable to think for themselves and require users to give them sets of ordered detailed instructions to know what to do, this is called an algorithm. Learning how to program helps students to develop essential skills such as problem-solving, logic and critical thinking.

Once we have parent permission teachers will subscribe students to the website and model its use in the classroom. When students are subscribed they need to set a password from the generic email that is set to their secure school email account. Teachers can then track their students' progress and see where they are at with the activities.

Registering with this provider requires student personal information to be disclosed to the provider of the service enabling students to login. Information that is entered into the website are stored in Australia and governed by Australian privacy laws. It uses cookies to track what students do on the website. Grok Learning requires the teacher or parent to share identifiable student information. The following information is given to the online provider; First and last name, School name, Teacher name, students school email address, gender of the student.

We have evaluated the application and read the term and conditions at <https://groklearning.com/policies/terms/> and believe that at this stage the website poses medium risk to students. However, online services can be modified at any point and we agree to monitor students while using the application. If anything changes in regard to how it works or collects student information we will inform parents. The Privacy policy can be found here at <https://groklearning.com/policies/privacy/>

The main risk for the students is that identifying information is provided to the website through the profile of the student. To manage the risk we have taken the following steps to protect student personal information and to keep them safe:

- Carefully read the privacy policy,
- Limit the amount of personal details, only use first letter of surname,
- Use school LearnLink email account so that it isn't attached to extra personal accounts,
- Support students to make complex passwords,
- Do not use a third party social media 'share' option,
- Ensure Antivirus software is up to date,
- Inform parents of the risks associated and how these will be managed at school,
- Teacher to set up the students' account providing as little student information as possible,
- Supervising the students at all times when using the website at school.