



PCS Cloud Computing

What benefit does GAFE offer to teaching and learning?

PLEASE NOTE – THE FOLLOWING IS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY IT IS NOT OFFICIAL PCS POLICY.

There are a number of key benefits to teaching and learning with **GAFE** (Google Apps for Education):

- students have a personal “digital locker” to store and access files of any kind securely
- online tools are accessible anywhere, anytime, on any web-enabled device
- students can work collaboratively on a variety of file types simultaneously
- students always have their documents and files, without needing USB sticks or other storage devices
- productivity tools are constantly updated with new features, without needing to do updates or handle licences

How is GAFE different than a personal Google Account?

GAFE allows schools to set up and manage the accounts and tools that staff and students use. The school controls the specific tools students have access to. We also control who students can share their documents or emails with. There are no ads, and no scanning of content by Google. Also, GAFE users have essentially unlimited online storage.

Who can get a PCS GAFE account?

At this point in time, all staff and students in grades 4-12 receive a GAFE account. Parents should be aware, however, that the student email addresses do not identify students by name. Additionally, for elementary student accounts, things like email have been restricted to internal use only (meaning student accounts are only able to send email to other PCS accounts).

Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, we anticipate that a GAFE consent form will be part of the re enrollment/admissions process. The school will collect the consent forms and will keep them on file.

What about Privacy?

The laws around privacy and information storage in British Columbia are relatively complex and involve numerous acts and agencies. Independent Schools are covered by a slightly different mix of legislation than public schools. The main pieces of applicable legislation include **PIPEDA** – Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (Private – Canada) and **PIPA** – Personal Information and Privacy Act (Private – BC). As a school, we believe that our existing application forms, privacy policy and this information meet the prescribed privacy thresholds; however, our movement towards things like explicit consent and our policies around data storage and GAFE use represent our efforts to model best practice in terms of the security of our students' privacy and personal information.

Who can access my information? Is Google going to sell my information?

According to the **GAFE** terms of service, PCS maintains full ownership of the data. Google will not share or sell any of our information. Google will access data only under specific circumstances, such as the need for technical support, or an enforceable governmental request. You can read more about this [on this page](#).

What information can I share within a PCS GAFEaccount?

Staff and students must remember that the GAFE tools are for educational use. Therefore steps must be taken to ensure that any confidential and/or sensitive identifiable information is not shared in any files and documents created or uploaded into the **GAFE** system. A specific list of the acceptable and unacceptable uses of the PCS **GAFE** [can be found here](#).

What happens when a parent withdraws consent for their child for GAFE?

We are confident that the system we are using in terms of user accounts (using non name user accounts) and the restrictions we have placed on storing confidential information together with [Google's own privacy commitments](#) will protect both students and staff; however, PCS will work to accommodate the learning needs of students whose parents withdraw permission for the systems use.