

# A Parent's Guide to Google Classroom

## What Exactly Is Google Classroom?

Initially, many parents think that Google Classroom is a virtual classroom where students log on to find their teacher and classmates waiting to start the day. This is not really the case. Google Classroom "allows for a platform for teachers and students to interact via posting assignments, engaging in academic dialogue, and providing feedback to one another."

When students log on, they see a snapshot view of upcoming homework assignments, teacher announcements, student questions, and other important class information. Students can submit their work directly through Google Classroom, and teachers can provide feedback, assign levels/marks/grades, and return the work. All your child's work stays organised and conveniently stored on Google Drive. Assignments are even automatically added to the Google Calendar based on their due dates. Essentially, the Google Classroom is where all your child's schoolwork is created, exchanged, and stored.

## How Does My Child Access Their Classroom?

The process for setting up your child's account is pretty simple. Your child's teachers do most of the work. They will set up the classroom and provide a join code that is unique to your child. Teachers can also invite students by email. Once access has been granted, your child can get into their classroom anytime by going to [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com).

Secondary school students, who have different teachers for different subjects, will see multiple classrooms when they log on. From their dashboard, they can choose the class they want to view. Once they enter a classroom, students find three tabs at the top of the page.

- The **Stream tab** can be compared to an interactive workbook. It's an outline of the course and an announcement page with a full overview of homework, assignments, and any other posts the teacher adds.
- The **Classwork tab** stores all your child's assignments. Here, they'll see each assignment that's been added by their teacher. When they click on a task, they'll get the due date, details, resources needed, and status of the assignment. Students also can turn in their work here once it's completed. They can add files or create slideshows and images to be submitted.
- The **People tab** shows all the teachers and students in the classroom. It's also a place where students can communicate directly with one another or their teacher.

## Can My Child Use a Mobile Device or Tablet to Access Google Classroom?

Absolutely. Like all the other Google apps available, your child can access the full functionality of Google Classroom from virtually any device. Just be sure to add the other essential Google apps needed for success to their devices, like Google Calendar, Google Docs, and Google Drive.

## How Do I Stay on Top of My Child's Learning Progress with Google Classroom?

Parents have the option of being added as a student guardian, if access is requested. In this case, you will receive an email that requires you to accept the invitation. Once approved, you can choose between daily or weekly guardian summaries. Based on your preference, you'll get an email that details missing work, upcoming assignments, and classroom activity.

(Information taken from *popsugar parenting*.)