



What is edmodo?

- edmodo is an online networking application for teachers and students. Think Facebook, but in a safe and controlled environment appropriate for school.
- edmodo is primarily a tool for within-class communication, but it also provides several ways for teachers to connect with other teachers.
- Over 500,000 students are using edmodo worldwide.
- edmodo is not blocked by the DET firewall – many DET teachers are using edmodo. One of edmodo “ambassador” teachers (there are only ten worldwide) is a Bianca Hewes, a NSW DET teacher.
- edmodo is free – and the edmodo organisation has said all currently available features will remain free

Why would I want to use edmodo?

- Build an **online learning conversation** with your class about your subject.
- edmodo makes using the DER laptops easier by providing simple ways to share files and communicate online.
- Encourage a peer-learning and peer-support environment – both in the classroom and online.
- Students enjoy using edmodo.

edmodo security features – why it’s *not* like Facebook

edmodo explicitly deals with school and teacher concerns about social networking for students in the following ways:

- Each edmodo class group is managed and controlled by the teacher
- Students need an access code to join the class. If a student shares the code outside the class, the teacher can change it, without affecting students already joined in the group.
- Students can only communicate to the whole class or to the teacher – private messages between students are not possible.
- Anonymous posting is not possible.
- Teachers can delete posts.
- If schools upgrade (free) to the institutional features, the school can audit all teacher and student activity.
- Parental access to their children’s posts and to the teacher is an optional feature.

What will it take to make edmodo work in my class?

- The most important idea to develop in your class is that the edmodo group is owned by and shared with the whole class, **focused on learning**.
- Start off small – there are many features and ways to use edmodo. Try it out with just one class.
- A few simple starters:
 - Place digital resources on edmodo for students to access or download,
 - Create polls for students to vote online.
 - Write short summaries of lessons for students who were absent from class (better yet: get your students to write the summary).
 - Post homework information.

How do I start?

- Visit edmodo.com – create a teacher account.
- Think about how you want to use edmodo in your class – discuss with teachers currently using edmodo.
- Create your class group – a group access code is generated – give this to your class.
- Immediately provide guidelines to the class about the purpose of the edmodo group (for learning) and expectations of how students will use edmodo. Remind students of school rules on using online resources and bullying.

What could we do at <our school>?

- Assign executive staff to supervise and direct school policy for using edmodo.
- **Establish an edmodo “institutional” account** (free).
This will:
 - Enable auditing of teacher and student use of edmodo. Most importantly, it will allow the school executive to access class forums and teacher-student messages,
 - Authenticate teachers creating an edmodo account claiming to be a teacher at RGHS,
 - Provide data showing school use of edmodo which could be used for school reporting,
 - Create a school edmodo domain name
- **Create a formal edmodo users group for staff**, supported with an online edmodo group for our teachers.
- **Purpose of the edmodo users group:**
 - Assist the executive staff in developing school guidelines on:
 - Communicating to students about how edmodo will be used,
 - Communicating to parents about how students are using edmodo,
 - Being clear about whether edmodo work is mandatory or optional for a specific class, *(Maybe depend on if the classes have DER laptops)*
 - If deemed appropriate: Communicating to parents through edmodo, and service expectations.
 - Provide peer support and training – formally and informally.
 - Share best practice – what is and isn't working in your edmodo classroom?
 - Provide material for use in the staff and school bulletins.
 - Report to executive on edmodo practices at the school.
- Suggested contact schedule for the edmodo users group:
 - Short fortnightly meetings – perhaps during one half lunch time period?
 - Most of the interactions can happen online in the teachers edmodo group.

A sample executive summary and recommendation letter. based on material from Nordin Zuber & Bianca Hewe. A letter like this may be helpful when presenting edmodo to your school executive.