

INTRODUCTION TO GDPR TERMINOLOGY - OVERVIEW

Data Audit/Data Asset Register

The assessment of data and its quality, for a specific purpose. Other terms might be data maps or information asset log.

Data Breach

A personal data breach means a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. This includes breaches that are the result of both accidental and deliberate causes. It also means that a breach is more than just about losing personal data. E.g. Sending a list of pupil names, attainment marks and dates of births to the wrong school

Data Erasure

An individual can ask the Data Controller to remove and stop processing their personal data. If the Data Controller can justify it needs to process this data, then the request can be refused. E.g. Staff

Data Controller

The organisation who (either alone or in common with other people) determine the purpose for which, and the manner in which data are processed. E.g. A school is often the data controller, sometimes a joint controller with the LA or DfE.

Data Item

A single piece of information about a data subject. E.g., "Ethnicity = white British" "Attendance = 97%"

Data Item Group

A group of data items that are typically captured about the same activity or business process in school. E.g., Behaviour management

Data Portability

The ability to take data from one Data Controller and transferring it to another. E.g. Changing banks or energy suppliers. In schools, data is regularly ported when students change establishments. Some data may not be portable due to it only being usable in a particular system but every effort should be made to make it available.

Data Processor

A person or organisation who process data on behalf of and on the orders of a controller. E.g. Payroll provider, catering supplier

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

This is a process to consider the implications of some change you are introducing on the privacy of individuals. Assessing privacy at the outset helps you plan consultation/awareness/consent type options from the outset. "Privacy by design" is a term that is used in this space. E.g., The introduction of a new data monitoring system

Data Retention

How long you will hold information for to do the processing job you need it for. At the end of a data retention period, processes should be in place to ensure it is properly disposed of. E.g. "We keep parent's phone numbers until 1 month after they leave the school in case of any issues that need resolving (for example, payment or repayment of lunch money) and then it is deleted."

Data Subject

The person that the data relates to. E.g., Jane Smith the teacher

Lawful basis and conditions for processing

These are the specific reasons, set out in law, for which you can process personal data. There is one list for personal data (lawful basis article 6) and another list for processing special category data (article 9). E.g., “The processing is necessary for administering justice, or for exercising statutory or governmental functions.”

Personal data

Information relating to a natural identifiable person, whether directly or indirectly. E.g., John Smith was born on 01/01/1990.

Privacy notice

This is a document that explains to the people you have data about (“data subjects”) the data items you hold, what they are used for, who it is passed onto and why, and what rights they have.

Pseudonymisation

Used a lot in education where data is analysed and presented in reports. E.g., links to identify individuals are removed.

Subject Access Request (SAR)

This is where a person (data subject), requests access to the information you hold about them. Timescales for responding, as well as reasons why you must comply or may refuse, as set out in law. A Subject Access Request is often used to describe “tell me all my data you hold”. E.g., “I want to know the attendance data you hold about my son”

Special category data

These are highly sensitive pieces of information about people. They are important because under GDPR they are afforded extra protection in terms of the reasons you need to have to access and process that information. In education, it would also be best practice to treat things like FSM, SEN, and CIN/CLA status as special category data. E.g., Tightly defined as data relating to racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, health, trade-union membership, and health or sex life. Data relating to criminal offences is also afforded similar special protection.

System

A piece of software, computer package or manually managed asset that supports the administration of one or more areas of school life. E.g., Capita SIMS, ParentPay, MyMaths.

