



The Exciting World Of GDPR

Term 2—2022/23

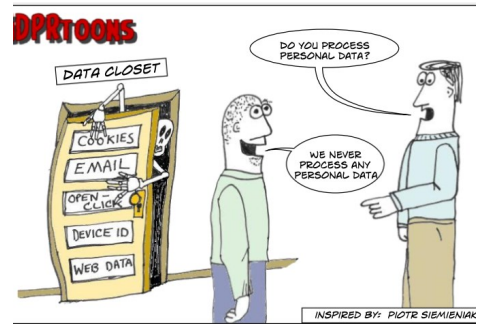
Welcome

Have you been having sleepless nights worrying when you are going to get your next fix of GDPR news? Do you think it will complete your life to have some GDPR news? Well you are in luck because we have another edition of

'The Exciting World of GDPR'

So grab yourself a lovely cup of tea, find a quiet spot and enjoy the guilty pleasure of catching up with everything data protection.

'The most excitement that you will get from words on a page'



Shut it

Our GDPR walks have shown that we still have a number of staff who are walking away from their machines and leaving data on their computers. This could lead to a GDPR issue if your information is seen by others.

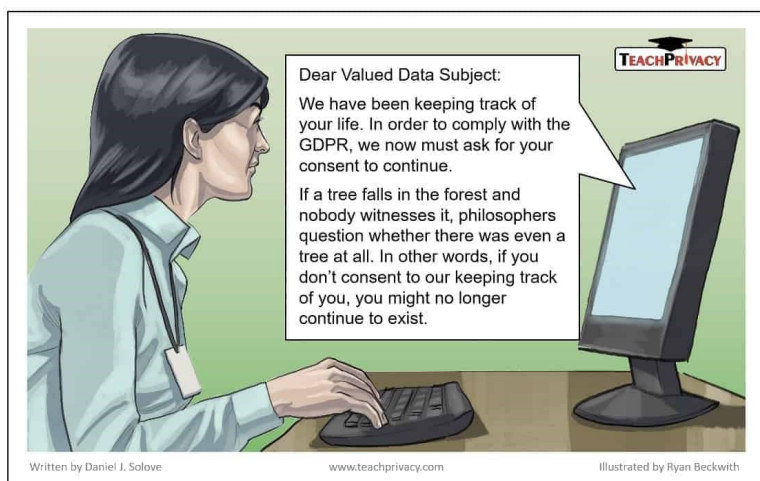
Many of us have inadvertently seen something on a smartphone, laptop or desktop monitor that we know was not meant for our viewing. Not only are 'visual hacks' fast, they do not require any technical skills, compared to software or networking hacking. Once obtained, sensitive or confidential information – for instance, personal details about employees or their contact details from a screen or a – could then potentially be sold or shared for illegal or malicious purposes.

Please remember to ensure that when you are leaving your computer that you are shutting it down. This way we are protecting our data from prying eyes.



Just Joking

GDPR can be very dry and not a matter to giggle over. We thought however we would bring back our feature from last time with a few more GDPR cartoons



He did loads of data access requests under GDPR – nobody's heard of him



Digestible Documents

With the huge amount of data being held around our pupils, the DfE face challenges to their data handling role.

DfE faces legal challenge over how it handles pupil data

Campaign group says department has 'repeatedly' failed to explain how it is meeting data protection law after damning 2020 audit

The government could face legal action over the way it handles pupil data as pressure grows to publish a full audit of its practices.

The campaign group DefendDigitalMe has issued a letter before claim to the Department for Education over its handling of "extremely sensitive information" about children, warning that it will seek a judicial review if it does not receive a "satisfactory response".

The organisation said the department has "repeatedly" failed to provide details of steps it has taken to ensure it meets data protection law, and has not properly informed parents about what is done with their children's data.

A damning audit by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in 2020 found the DfE broke data protection laws in how it handled pupil data.

The audit was prompted by complaints about the national pupil database (NPD), which holds information on millions of past and present school pupils.

A summary of the report warned that data protection "was not being prioritised", which had "severely impacted the DfE's ability to comply

with the UK's data protection laws".

The watchdog issued 139 recommendations for improvement, with more than 60 per cent classified as "urgent or high priority". The DfE said it had reviewed "all processes for the use of personal data".

'No sense of urgency'

But the government has not published an update on its work to address the ICO's concerns since January 2021. The full report, which the DfE promised to publish, is also still under wraps more than two years later.

DefendDigitalMe's director, Jen Persson, said there seemed to be "no sense of urgency".

"[There is] no commitment to even recognising they have a serious problem, when there is no mechanism in place to automatically indicate a child at risk should have a sealed record protected from distribution.

"When you ask ordinary pupils and teachers, they are shocked to know more than statistics leave the school and are given away to an unlimited number of businesses."

Her organisation wants a response detailing how the DfE is now complying with data protection law.

The department told *Schools Week* that while it was under "no obligation" to publish the full report, it had "committed in the future to publish the full report once we have concluded the work to the ICO's

satisfaction".

As part of its investigation, the ICO looked into how the NPD, learning records service and "internally held databases" at the DfE were managed.

DfE faces questions over sharing of pupil data

The sharing of data from the NPD with external organisations has been a subject of controversy for some years, and children's rights' groups have called for it to be halted.

This came to a head in 2016 when the government began collecting data on pupils' nationality and country of birth, eventually admitting it had planned to share the data with the Home Office for immigration control. The collection was cancelled in 2018.

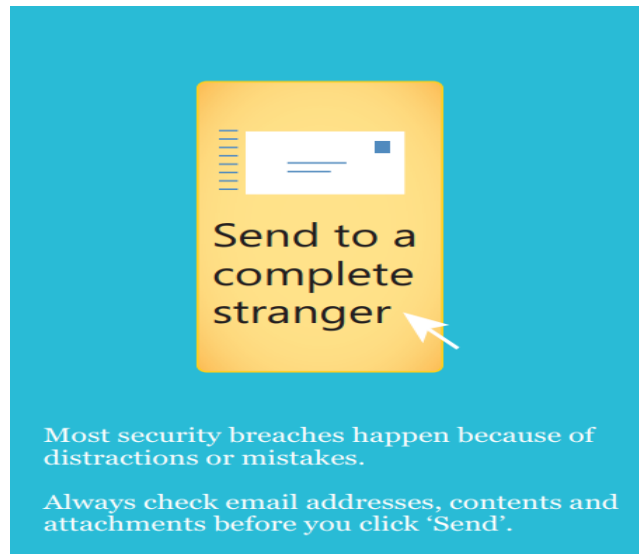
The DfE releases anonymised sections of the NPD to organisations – including private companies – that request them. However, the ICO found the reasons for doing so were not always justified.

But access to pupil data is important for academics and research organisations, such as the National Foundation for Educational Research.

Its director of research, Lesley Duff, said analysis of important data sources played a "critical role in creating new evidence for teachers and other practitioners about what works in the education system".

Check and Check Again

Did you know that most data breaches that we have had within the Trust has been due to staff sending e-mails to the wrong person. This has included staff with similar names, parents and on a few occasions to pupils. It is key you check and check again before pressing that send button.



Perfect Privacy

How aware are our pupils about the importance of protecting the data of their own and those of others? If the answer is not that much then we may have the answer for you. The ICO have produced a range of lesson plans, worksheets and resources which are really useful in teaching the importance of privacy.

These resources can be accessed by clicking on the following link: [England - primary | ICO](#)

There are resources available for both Primary and Secondary pupils.



IT'S OUR REPUTATION!

Reputations are hard won and easily lost. Handling our supporter and employee data with care and respect is critical to protect our reputation. YOU are our best defence against reputational damage. Think Privacy.

IT'S IN YOUR HANDS!

We are all responsible for ensuring that personal information about supporters and employees is kept secure and confidential. Extra care must be taken with any information that needs to be sent or taken off-site. Think Privacy.