

My data protection rights factsheet: Knowing what's happening to your data

You have the right to know what's happening to your data and why. This means that you have the right to know when your personal data is being collected by someone else. This is known as **"the right to be informed"**. The right to be informed is one of the most important data protection rights because you can't control your data if you don't know who has it or what they're doing with it.

There are certain things that an organisation **must** tell you whenever they collect your data. For example, they have to tell you **who they are, what exactly they are doing with your data and why, how long they're going to keep your data**, and they must also tell you **what your data protection rights are and how you can get in touch** with them if you want to exercise your data protection rights.

The law says that organisations have to make sure that this information is really clear and easy for children to understand. It also has to be easy for children to find this information. It's also a good idea to get your parents to help you read them in case you have any questions.

Where can I find this information?

Organisations normally put all of this information in a document that's called a **privacy policy** which you can usually find on their website. Social media platforms and apps also use things like **pop-up notices** to remind you of this information at different times, so for example some information about what's happening to your data might pop up on your screen if you make changes to your account settings or if you're just about to post a photo or video.

Why is it important that I read this stuff?

It can be very tempting to just swipe past these notices because you want to get on with setting up your profile, chatting with your friends or posting your photos. And it doesn't help that privacy policies are often really long and not that fun to read. But it's a good idea for you to get into the habit of taking a look at them because they have a lot of important information that you need to know.

What data protection rights do I have?

You can find more information about all your data protection rights on the DPC's website: <https://www.dataprotection.ie/en/dpc-guidance/childrens-data-protection-rights>