



Right to be forgotten



A definition

According to article 17 of the General Data Protection Regulation ([GDPR](#)) “data subject shall have the right to obtain from the controller the erasure of personal data concerning him or her without undue”. At the same time, this is not an absolute right, meaning that it might not be possible or required in all situations, as described by paragraph 3 (see link below).



Why is this important?

Being aware of the right to be forgotten is crucial for at least two main reasons:

- as persons, as anyone can require to delete their data.
- as schools, as any organisation must comply with the GDPR.

It is important for students to know that they can exercise this right towards any organisation storing their data, but also with any social media where they share information.

We should help students in deconstructing the idea that “what you put online, stays online forever”. At the same time, we should always remind them that the “erasing process” takes time, is not immediate and can vary depending on the platform. So, it is always better to think twice before posting pictures or sharing information.



Tips and tricks



As a person living in the EU, you can exercise the right to be forgotten with any social media company, regardless of where it is based (in or outside the EU). Some social media platforms have automated right to be forgotten forms, and in case they do not reply, you can send them a formal GDPR notice.



Schools must be aware that they must comply with GDPR, but there are situations where it can be refused. Schools may take into consideration having legal support to organise the data collection and protection.



Useful resources and tools



[Art. 17 of the GDPR](#) states the Right to be forgotten.



The Internet Law Centre Cohen Davis Solicitors, [Removing posts from social media](#), published an article with useful links and information on how to submit a request to remove posts from social media with the right to be forgotten.