JSS2 DIDGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Meaning of Data Protection

Data protection refers to the measures and practices used to safeguard personal and sensitive information against unauthorized access, loss, damage, theft or misuse.

It involves ensuring that information is collected, stored, processed and shared responsibly and securely.

Examples of personal data include:

- Full name.
- Home address.
- Phone number.
- Email address.
- Bank details.
- School records.
- Photographs.

Importance of Data Protection

Data protection is important for the following reasons:

1. **Privacy:** It prevents unauthorised people from accessing personal information.
2. **Security:** It protects information against theft, hacking and misuse.
3. **Prevention of Identity Theft:** It prevents criminals from using another person's information illegally.
4. **Data Accuracy:** It helps ensure that stored information remains correct.
5. **Confidentiality:** It ensures that sensitive information is only accessed by authorised persons.
6. **Trust:** It builds confidence between organisations and the people whose information they handle.

Legal Responsibilities in Data Protection

Legal responsibilities are the duties individuals and organisations must follow according to data protection laws.

In Nigeria, data protection is regulated by the **Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA) 2023**, administered by the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC).

Important legal responsibilities include:

1. Obtaining personal information lawfully and fairly.
2. Collecting only information that is necessary for a specific purpose.
3. Keeping personal information secure.
4. Obtaining appropriate consent where required by law.
5. Allowing individuals to exercise their data protection rights.
6. Preventing unauthorised disclosure of personal information.
7. Reporting personal data breaches to the appropriate authorities where legally required.

Ethical Responsibilities in Data Protection

Ethical responsibilities are the moral duties individuals and organisations should observe when handling other people's information.

They include:

1. Respecting people's privacy.
2. Not sharing confidential information without proper authorisation.
3. Using personal information only for its intended purpose.
4. Avoiding the misuse of personal information.
5. Keeping passwords and confidential records private.
6. Being honest when collecting personal information.
7. Respecting other people's photographs and personal documents.

5. Ways of Protecting Personal Data

- Use strong passwords.
- Install and update antivirus software.
- Avoid suspicious links and emails.
- Do not share passwords with others.
- Back up important information regularly.
- Lock computers when not in use.

- Avoid using unsecured public Wi-Fi for sensitive transactions.
- Restrict access to confidential files.

6. Difference Between Legal and Ethical Responsibilities

Legal Responsibilities	Ethical Responsibilities
Duties required by law.	Duties based on moral principles.
Failure may result in legal penalties.	Failure may result in loss of trust and reputation.
Enforced by government authorities.	Guided by honesty, fairness and respect.
Example: Protecting personal data as required by law.	Example: Not gossiping about someone's private information.