

# Somalia Data Protection Authority (DPA)

## Official Guidance on Children's Data Protection

**Status:** Official Guidance

**Version:** 1.0

**Date of Issue:** 2025

### Foreword

Children's personal data requires enhanced protection. This guidance assists organizations in ensuring that children's data is processed lawfully and in their best interests.

### Legal Basis

This guidance is issued pursuant to the transparency, fairness, accountability, and special protection principles under the Somalia Data Protection Act No. 005 (2023).

For the purposes of this guidance, a child refers to a person under the age defined under applicable Somali law.

### 1.1 Special Protection

Children's personal data requires heightened protection due to their vulnerability.

Organizations must act in the best interests of the child when processing personal data relating to children.

### 1.2 Lawful Collection

When processing children's data, organizations must:

- Have a clear lawful basis
- Obtain parental or guardian consent where required
- Avoid unnecessary data collection

- Implement reasonable verification mechanisms where parental or guardian consent is required

Organizations must ensure that consent mechanisms are transparent and proportionate.

## 1.3 Transparency

Information provided to children must be:

- Age-appropriate
- Clear and simple
- Easy to understand

Where services are directed at children, privacy notices should use plain language and child-friendly design.

## 1.4 Restrictions on Profiling

Profiling, tracking, or behavioral analysis of children for marketing or similar purposes is strongly restricted.

High-risk profiling of children requires enhanced safeguards and may require consultation with the Somalia Data Protection Authority.

## 1.5 Security Measures

Children's data must be protected through:

- Restricted access
- Enhanced security controls
- Limited retention periods
- Encryption where appropriate
- Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) for large-scale or high-risk processing

## 1.6 Education & Online Services

Schools, education platforms, and digital services must:

- Protect student records

- Limit online tracking
- Avoid unnecessary data sharing
- Ensure secure learning platforms
- Set default privacy settings for children’s services to the highest level of protection

Services directed at children should apply privacy-by-design and privacy-by-default principles.

## 1.7 Enforcement

Failure to protect children’s data may result in heightened enforcement measures by the DPA.

Organizations processing children’s data should prioritize compliance and adopt enhanced safeguards due to the vulnerability of child data subjects.

## Revision History

- Version 1.0 – Initial publication (2025)

## Disclaimer

This guidance is issued to assist organizations in interpreting and applying the Somalia Data Protection Act No. 005 (2023). It does not replace the Act and does not create new legal obligations beyond those set out in law.

