

AI in education

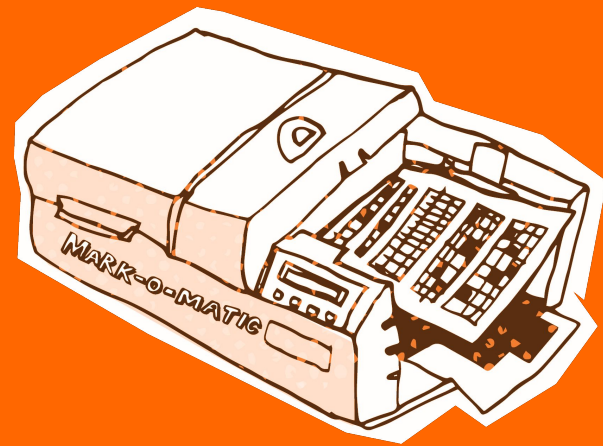
AI in education



We are going to explore

- What is AI and generative AI?
- How could generative AI be used in education
- What are some of the issues with generative AI
- Your say: discuss your views on generative AI in education

Introducing AI



Introducing AI

- **What does AI stand for?**

Introducing AI

Mini-discussion:

- What sorts of things can AI do?
- What can't AI do?

Introducing AI

AI stands for 'Artificial Intelligence'. AI uses computer programs to find patterns in data.

Using lots of data, and complex algorithms, AI systems might be used to try and:

- **Predict**
- **Suggest**
- **Recognise**
- **Generate**

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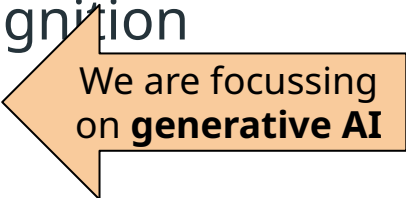
- **Predict** - e.g. tomorrow's weather forecast
- **Suggest** - e.g. the next song you might like to listen to
- **Recognise** - e.g. speech recognition or facial recognition
- **Generate** - e.g. chatbots or image creators

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We are focussing on **generative AI**

Artificial intelligence

Artificial Intelligence has been around for a while

Quiz: When do you think the term Artificial Intelligence was first used?

- 1822
- 1956
- 1989
- 2015

Artificial intelligence

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In 1956 a group of scientists met to explore whether computers could carry out tasks that normally need humans. They called their goal '**artificial intelligence**'.

Since then researchers have tried many different ways to get computers to mimic or simulate human activities.

Generative AI (GenAI)

***Generative AI* is quite new**

Quiz: When do you think generative AI started to be widely used?

- 1991
- 2010
- 2022
- 2025

Generative AI (GenAI)

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The high profile ChatGPT chatbot launched in November 2022 and was soon used by millions of people.

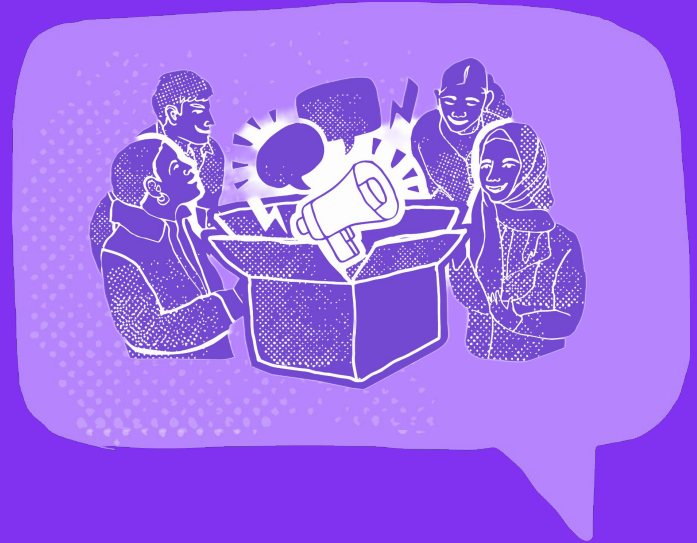
In the last three years many organisations, including schools, have been exploring ways they can use generative AI.

Generative AI (GenAI)

Coming up:

- In a few minutes we will look at examples of **generative AI** in education.
- **First:** Your views on AI matter

Your say



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child gives everyone under 18 rights:

- To be **protected** from harms and discrimination
- To **provision** of play, education, health and other good things
- To **participate** and have your say on decisions that affect you

Your say

- In January 2026, the Department for Education hosted an **international summit on generative AI in education**.
- This workshop was originally created to gather student views to inform that summit. Over 1000 students took part, and you can find out what they said, and what the government did, at <http://connectedbydata.org/ai-in-education/>
- You can still use these resources to explore your views on generative AI in education, and to feed into classroom or school decisions you might make about the use of AI.



Your say

We may not be able to cover all the views or ideas you have about AI in this session.

We have a **parking lot** where we can write-up issues that are not covered.

Your teacher or group leader could use this parking lot to identify topics for future discussions.

'Parking lot'

Where we 'park' ideas that we don't have time to talk about right now.

Summary: Having a say on AI

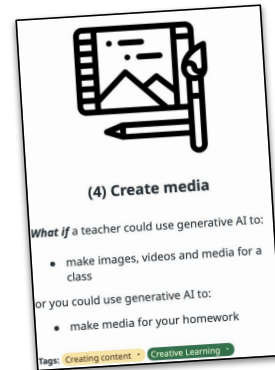
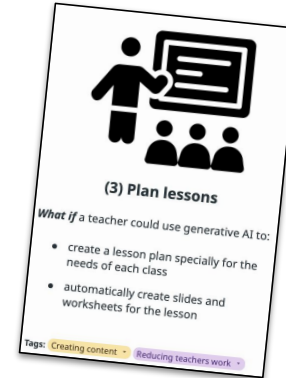
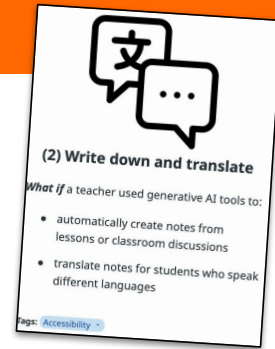
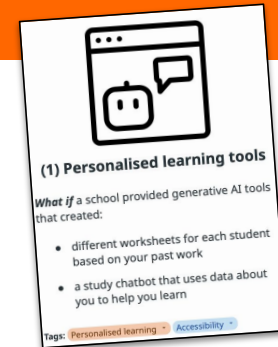
- **You** have a right to express your views on AI.
- **Schools** make choices about how they use AI.
- The **government** sets rules and provides guidance for schools and companies about AI. They should listen to student views to inform their decisions.
- Responsible **companies** should take student views into account when deciding how AI systems should work or be used.

AI in education



AI in education: Tools

- We are going to look at some of the ways **generative AI** can be used in education
- There are cards describing **12 different generative AI tools**
- With your cards **talk in small groups**:
 - What do you think the **benefits** might be with using this kind of tool in education?
 - What do you think the **problems** might be with using this tool in education?





Benefits

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~



### (3) Plan lessons

*What if* a teacher could use generative AI to:

- create a lesson plan specially for the needs of each class
- automatically create slides and worksheets for the lesson

Tags: Creating content Reducing teachers work

## Problems

~~~~~

~~~~~

~~~~~

Teachers will choose one of these
two feedback activities in a full
session...



Class vote: show of hands

- Students share feedback on each tool
- Run through the list
- Show of hands if you think this is a good use of generative AI in education (benefits outweigh problems)

- (1) Personalised learning tools
- (2) Write down and translate
- (3) Plan lessons
- (4) Create media
- (5) Mark work
- (6) Help research
- (7) Communication
- (8) Virtual worlds
- (9) Writing aid
- (10) Setting school rules
- (11) Character chat
- (12) Check what you have learnt

(1) In groups come up with benefits and problems for your tools

(2) Look at other sheets, and vote for (✓) or against (✗) the tools you think are good uses of generative AI in education



(3) Count to vote to find the groups top-3 and bottom-3 tools.

Issues with AI



Issues with generative AI in education

- People have different views about AI in education
- We have worksheets that show what different people might think about **8 AI Issues**
- **In small groups:** Look at the issues and discuss. *Do you agree with any of the points? What do you think about this issue?*

Bias

A

What's the issue?

- AI model creators collect and select huge amounts of information and use this to 'train' an AI model.
- The information AI is trained on might come from large collections of scanned books, online message boards, and billions of photos and videos gathered from the Internet.
- Sometimes this information contains harmful ideas like racism or sexism, or it might not include enough information on particular cultures or languages. This is bias.
- The bias in the data going into AI models and in the way they are used can mean that the things that generative AI creates are biased too.

What do people say about it?



Educational tools can have safety filters built in so that they don't produce too much harmful content unless someone tries to go around the filter.

I think teachers should always look at what the AI makes and because AI is supposed to save them time they could use the spare time to fix any bias in what it creates.

I feel that the world is not fair, and AI just shows that back to us like a mirror. That is better than pretending bias isn't there.

I read that some AI marking tools give worse marks to people whose first language is not English.

A teacher knows to avoid bias but when AI generates a worksheet with lots of small problems in, they might not spot them all.

AI tools might give people different advice or support just depending on their name - because the name is associated with a particular culture or gender. That's not fair!



What do we say about it?

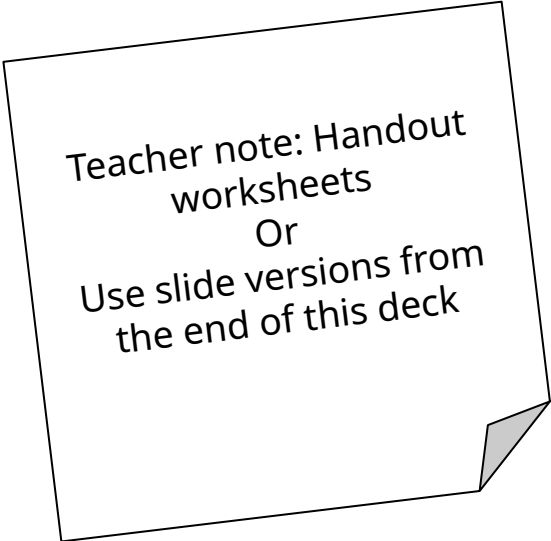
Discuss with your group what you think about this issue.

There is space here to write down what you want to say about it.

A large, empty, hand-drawn style speech bubble shape with a tail pointing towards the bottom left, intended for students to write their group discussion points.

Issues

- A Bias**
- B Personalisation**
- C Not thinking for ourselves**
- D Accuracy**
- E Personal data & privacy**
- F Cost**
- G Environmental impact**
- H Safety & reliance**

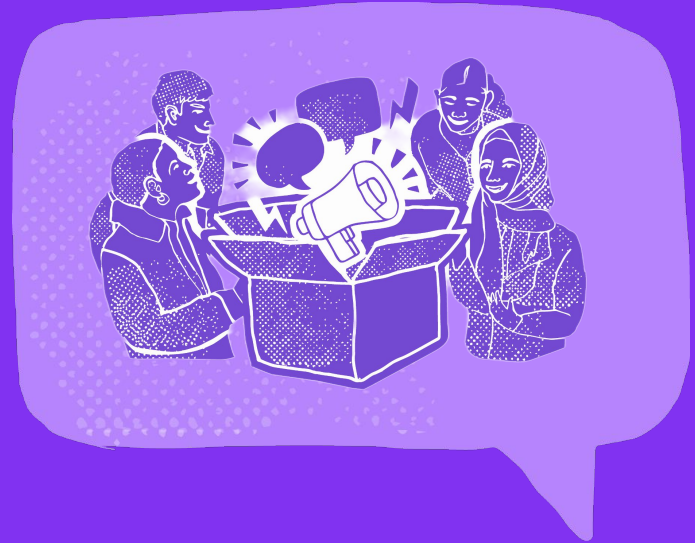


Teacher note: Handout
worksheets
Or
Use slide versions from
the end of this deck

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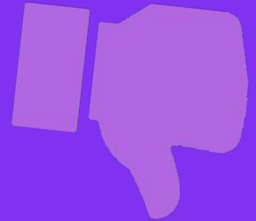
Have your say



Have your say

- **Part 1:** Vote on **statements** about generative AI in education
- **Part 2:** Share your **creative visions** about generative AI in education

**Agree / Disagree: Action on
generative AI in education**



Agree / Disagree



- We will look at a number of statements about generative AI in education
- As a group we have to decide if we **agree**, **disagree** or are **unsure** about the statement
- We can also come up with statements of our own

agree or disagree?

AI tools for education should be officially checked and approved as safe, accurate and unbiased before they can be used, even if that means it takes longer for the latest models to be used in schools

agree or disagree?

AI should never replace face to face time with a teacher,
even if AI might help a pupil learn information faster

agree or disagree?

Important exams should always be marked by a human,
even if an AI marker would be fairer

agree or disagree?

It's fine if AI sometimes gives pupils incorrect information,
as long as the terms and conditions say AI isn't always
right

agree or disagree?

We should not place too many limits on the data that AI for education can use, so that AI can be as effective as possible

agree or disagree?

Sometimes students will have to use AI in the classroom,
whether they want to or not

agree or disagree?

It's ok for AI tools to be addictive if they keep students
focused on learning

agree or disagree?

AI tutors should never be able to have conversations with pupils about personal issues, like friendships or family problems

agree or disagree?

It's okay for an AI to sounds like it has feelings, even if we know it doesn't

agree or disagree?

If AI can help pupils pass exams, it doesn't matter if pupils are actually learning and understanding their lessons

agree or disagree?

AI should not be used to mark handwritten work

agree or disagree?

Schools should have AI systems that students can use independently to support their learning

agree or disagree?

AI needs a lot of data to be effective. We should wait until all the privacy and data protection issues are sorted out before we start to use it in education.

agree or disagree?

Children from a young age should be educated on how to use AI most effectively and safely in their learning.

agree or disagree?

Schools should not use AI because of its environmental impact, even if it helps with education

agree or disagree?

There should be tight limits on how much TEACHERS use AI in schools but STUDENTS should be able to use it however they like

agree or disagree?

There should be tight limits on how much STUDENTS use AI in schools but TEACHERS should be able to use it however they like

agree or disagree?

AI tools should not give the right answer straight away:
they should make sure we work through learning step by
step

agree or disagree?

Students should tell teachers when their work has been made or supported with AI - and the AI tools should help them do this.

agree or disagree?

It would be better to have an AI tool set a lesson if your teacher is off, rather than having a substitute teacher

Your say: creative expression



Your say: creative expression

Your teacher will have chosen one or more of the following activities for your class to complete.

Feedback to an AI Maker

Write a letter to the maker of an AI Education Tool or AI Model to tell them what you think they should be doing.

Education with or without

Create two representations of future education:

- one where generative AI is being used;
- one where generative AI is not in use.

Our education app

Design your own Education App. Annotate it with the decisions you have made and whether it makes use of generative AI or not.

Your Say: creative expressions

Feedback to an AI Maker

Feedback to an AI Maker

Lots of digital tools have a feedback form where you can tell the company what you think.

Pick a tool that you looked at earlier and imagine you have been using this tool at school. Think about what it might be like and the good and bad things about it.

Write a feedback message that could be shared with the maker of the tool.

You could:

- focus on what you like and/or don't like about the tool
- suggest how it could be improved for use in education
- give reasons that would persuade the AI maker to make the changes you are asking for

Feedback to an AI Maker (example)

Example of Feedback to an AI Maker

Mention the kind of AI Tool you are writing about

Start with what you like or don't like about generative AI in education

Think about what the AI Tool Maker should do

Don't include personal information in your message.

Our school has been using your Automatic Marking tool for the last three months.

It was all going well, until our recent homework about South America. It made lots more mistakes in marking our work and said some of what I'd written wasn't true when it was. At first the teacher did not notice and I got a bad mark.

I guess your tool was trained using data that didn't include much about South America. I think that you should:

- Warn the teacher when your tool is not confident about the marks it is giving
- Improve your data so that it can be used for homework about more of the world

Kids in my class come from all over the world. It is not fair if AI marking tools cannot mark well when they write about the countries they come from.

I like that automatic marking can give me feedback quicker, but I still want my teacher to tell me what they think. Your tools should support teaching, not replace it.

Your Say: creative expressions

Education with and without AI

Your say: Education with and without AI

- Create two representations of your future education: one with AI, and one without. You could draw or write to show where you might want to see AI used in education, and where you do not want AI to be used.
- If you draw, please write a short description under each one.
- **Tip:** focus on what the *experience* of education with or without AI could or should be like. Try to avoid images of robots!

Your say: Education with and without AI (Example)



Your say: Education with and without AI (Example)



I want to see generative AI used in education if it can help everyone learn at their own speed.

I don't want to see generative AI used in education if it means we spend too much time on screens instead of working together.

Your Say: creative expressions
Our education app...

Your say: our education app

Design your own App for education

You could base your idea on one of the tools you have learnt about... or you could use your imagination and think about other ways generative AI could help, or get in the way of, learning.

Draw your tool's interface, or a storyboard of someone using it.

Write down:

- **What the tool does**
- **What features it has**
- **If your tool was created, what would it be important to consider?**

Your say: our education app (Example)

What it does:

Gives us AI reminders in the morning of the timetable and what we need to bring to school.

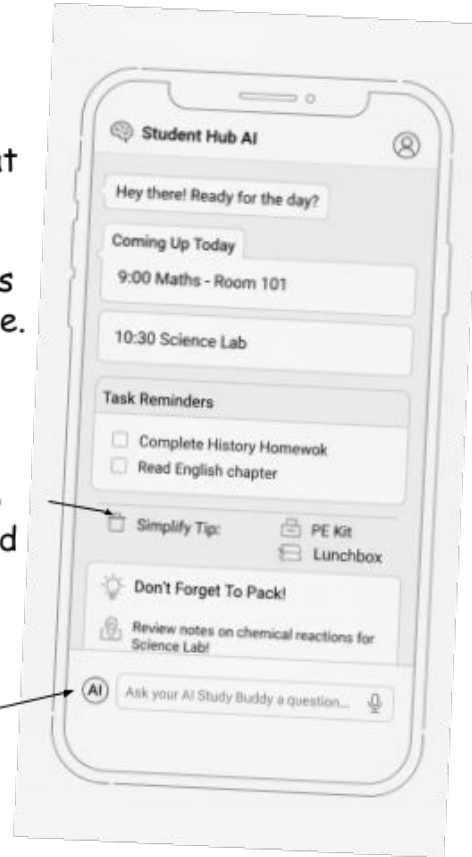
It could be on our phones, parents phones or smart-speakers at home.

Features:

It breaks down what you need to do to be ready: helpful if you find it hard to be organised

Features:

You can ask questions about your school day



If this was made, it would be important to think about:

- Keeping personal data secure

- Making sure the timetable data was accurate!

- Would you get into trouble if the tool said you didn't have PE, but then you did?

**What happens
next?**

Recap

We have explored:

- **What is AI and generative AI?**
- **How could generative AI be used in education**
- **What are some of the issues with generative AI**
- **Who makes decisions about AI in education**
- **What do you think about it?**

What happens next?

Did you uncover strong views about generative AI in education in your group?

Think about who needs to hear these views. Have you got ways to share your views with them?

Remember: If anything in our discussion has left you worried, or you have concerns about online safety, talk to a responsible adult.

**Thank you from
Connected by Data
& the Department
for Education team**

Extra slides

Agree/Disagree statements

Starting statements

1. AI tools for education should be officially checked and approved as safe, accurate and unbiased before they can be used, even if that means it takes longer for the latest models to be used in schools
2. AI should never replace face to face time with a teacher, even if AI might help a pupil learn information faster
3. Important exams should always be marked by a human, even if an AI marker would be fairer
4. It's fine if AI sometimes gives pupils incorrect information, as long as the terms and conditions say AI isn't always right
5. We should not place too many limits on the data that AI for education can use, so that AI can be as effective as possible

Starting statements

6. Sometimes students will have to use AI in the classroom, whether they want to or not
7. It's ok for AI tools to be addictive if they keep students focused on learning
8. AI tutors should never be able to have conversations with pupils about personal issues, like friendships or family problems
9. It's okay for an AI to sounds like it has feelings, even if we know it doesn't
10. If AI can help pupils pass exams, it doesn't matter if pupils are actually learning and understanding their lessons

Additional statements – suggested by students

11. AI should not be used to mark handwritten work
12. Schools should have AI systems that students can use independently to support their learning
13. AI needs a lot of data to be effective. We should wait until all the privacy and data protection issues are sorted out before we start to use it in education.
14. Children from a young age should be educated on how to use AI most effectively and safely in their learning.
15. Schools should not use AI because of its environmental impact, even if it helps with education

Additional statements – suggested by students

16. There should be tight limits on how much TEACHERS use AI in schools but STUDENTS should be able to use it however they like
17. There should be tight limits on how much STUDENTS use AI in schools but TEACHERS should be able to use it however they like
18. AI tools should not give the right answer straight away: they should make sure we work through learning step by step
19. Students should tell teachers when their work has been made or supported with AI - and the AI tools should help them do this.
20. It would be better to have an AI tool set a lesson if your teacher is off, rather than having a substitute teacher

Issue slides

Issues

- A Bias**
- B Personalisation**
- C Not thinking for ourselves**
- D Accuracy**
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What's the issue?

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- The bias in the data going into AI models and in the way they are used can mean that the things that generative AI creates are biased too.

Bias: what do people say?

A



Educational tools can have safety filters built in so that they don't produce too much harmful content unless someone tries to go around the filter.

I feel that the world is not fair, and AI just shows that back to us like a mirror. That is better than pretending bias isn't there.

A teacher knows to avoid bias but when AI generates a worksheet with lots of small problems in, they might not spot them all.

I think teachers should always look at what the AI makes and because AI is supposed to save them time they could use the spare time to fix any bias in what it creates.

I read that some AI marking tools give worse marks to people whose first language is not English.

AI tools might give people different advice or support just depending on their name - because the name is associated with a particular culture or gender. That's not fair!



What's the issue?

Generative AI can be used to create custom learning resources such as lessons, worksheets, quizzes or AI tutors. These can be adapted based on information about particular students or groups of students.

- AI tools could be used to create resources that reflect student's interests: e.g. maths problems themed around football, pets or music.
- AI tools could be used to adapt lessons for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- Interactive AI studybots could ask questions that are at just the right level of difficulty for each pupil.
- AI tools could be used to make a catch-up handout for lessons you might have missed.

Personalisation: what do people say?

B



It makes it quick for teachers to make lessons just right for the class.

If everyone gets their own AI-set tasks we don't get to learn as a group. I can't ask my friend for help - because their worksheet will be different from mine.

AI tools don't *really* know you. Even with lots of data, AI tools can't be as creative as our teachers in finding ways to spark our interest.

A teacher is still involved in deciding how to adapt a lesson, AI tools just give them suggestions specific to their students that they might not have thought of.

AI could give students feedback on their work right away: no waiting for the teacher. I feel like when I get feedback just for me, I can learn better.



What's the issue?

When we use AI to answer questions, summarise something, or create something, we skip some of the thinking (cognition) we might have needed to do ourselves. This gets called 'cognitive offloading' and some people are worried about it.

- When teachers or students rely on AI to do work, they don't spend as much time thinking in detail about the content of the work.
- This may mean that they don't develop a full understanding of a topic. Over time, people will make less use of their own memory, problems-solving and creative skills.
- The brain is like any muscle: we have to use it to keep it strong!

Not thinking for ourselves: what do people say?

C



AI isn't there to replace thinking: just to support it. For example, I feel that if AI is taking notes for me then I can focus on listening to what is being said now.

We need to learn basic skills before we start relying on AI.

When young people use AI for research they don't develop critical thinking skills. I think using AI will make us lazy.

I don't feel like my teacher is spending time on me or my work any more – everything goes through the computer.

Teachers using AI to mark work can save time to use for other tasks.

When we can 'offload' some of our thinking to AI then we can focus on the important bits of learning. AI can break down tasks in ways that help us learn.




What's the issue?

- Generative AI tools work by giving responses based on the next most probable word of a sentence, or pixel of an image. They do not have a concept of 'true' or 'false', even though it may feel that way.
- Generative AI models are trained to be convincing, so they can present false information in a very confident way. This is sometimes called 'hallucination'.
- It can be difficult for students (and teachers) to tell the difference between accurate information and falsehoods.
- Using wrong information generated by AI in learning resources or school work could lead to poor understanding or low marks.

Accuracy: what do people say?

D



Students should learn how to use AI by comparing its answers to information from trusted sources like textbooks or teachers.

If AI is not accurate and students can't trust what the AI says they might end up believing lots of things that are not true.

I've heard that AI tools are being updated all the time, and they are getting much better at being accurate.

I heard that generative AI does not 'know' the difference between what is true or not: the problem of hallucination is built-in and there is no easy way around it.

Checking the accuracy of AI output takes teachers and students time, which defeats the purpose of using the AI to save time.

We can't get away from Generative AI: we need to learn skills for using it well - and that means using it while we are at school and college.



What's the issue?

To provide personalised feedback an AI tool needs information about you or your work.

- An AI tool to help write a school report might need access to lots of data from your work over the year, such as all your past marks.
- An AI marking app may send a copy of your work to the company providing the AI model that it uses.
- A personalised learning chatbot might store all the questions you ask it, and might learn a lot about you over time.
- Sometimes AI tools or models might want to use student work, chat logs, or records of responses you found helpful, to train new versions.

The rules set by many AI model companies don't allow use by children under 13, or require parent/guardian consent for use by anyone under 18.

Personal data & privacy: what do people say?

E



Good AI tools will have privacy rules that make sure data about students is kept secure. It should be up to the school to agree to the terms of use.

It's worth giving access to data about each student so that AI can provide personalised responses.

If AI is trained with work from pupils and teachers, then AI models could become better at supporting education for all ages.

If someone else gets into my account they might find out private information.

I'm worried that the AI model will have too much data about me.

I have a right to privacy: it's not right for my personal data to be given to companies who might use it for their own profits.

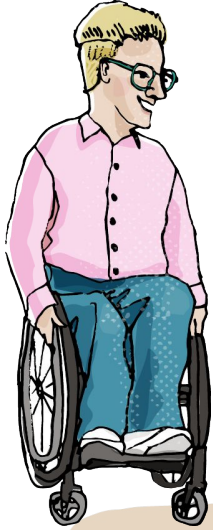


What's the issue?

- Many AI tools will cost the school money: they have to be paid for each month or year.
- This can take money from school budgets that could be spent on other things.
- Companies might suddenly put the price up.
- Some of the education AI tools used at school have paid-for versions for homework that families might feel under pressure to buy.
- Not everyone can afford to use AI tools at home.

Cost: what do people say?

F

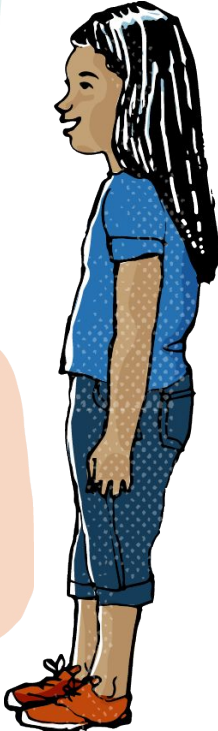


AI tools might save much more money than they cost.

It's unfair if some pupils can afford AI tools at home and some can't. School is about learning, not selling us on AI tools, or making us rely on AI tools that will cost us money in future.

Schools already buy in lots of different resources. I think they should be trusted to choose for themselves the AI tools that are the best value for money.

Some schools can afford access to the best AI tools, while others might not even be able to afford computers to be able to access free versions.



What's the issue?

Training and using generative AI models and tools uses a lot of electricity and water, and the energy demand for this seems to be increasing all the time.

- Lots of new data centres are being built because of increased use of AI.
- These use a lot of electricity. Not all of it is coming from renewable sources.
- Many data centres also need a lot of water to cool down the computer chips that get very hot when they are used.
- Data centres are often built on land which animals or people could enjoy.

Environmental impact: what do people say?

G



I heard that AI tools are getting more efficient all the time, and the environmental impact will come down in the future.

Lots of things we do use energy. We can't ignore the opportunity of AI because of its power use.

We need to use less energy, not more, if we are going to address climate change. AI is making it harder to avoid bad environmental impacts.

Using AI can use 10 times or more electricity than using a simple search engine, or looking something up in a book.



What's the issue?

- AI models can sometimes generate harmful content.
 - A chat bot could say something offensive or encourage someone to do something that is wrong.
 - AI-generated materials might include things that are inappropriate for the age of the students and that scares or worries them.
- There are reports of people relying on AI in ways that get in the way of human relationships.
- Personal data given to an AI tool could be hacked or lost in a data breach.
- Most AI models have not been trained with child safety or wellbeing as a priority.

Safety & reliance: what do people say?

H



Most educational AI tools have filters that should stop most harms.

Most AI tools are used by the teacher, not the student - and so they can keep us safe.

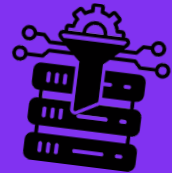
I'm worried my friends won't want to speak to me because they are talking to AI.

I don't think AI tools are made with children in mind. They might say inappropriate things.



The following slides were included in version 1 of the workshop - but removed based on feedback on workshop timing.

Who decides how AI works in education?



Who decides how AI works in education?

Most generative AI tools for education are made up of at least three different pieces.



Prompt: Entered by a teacher or student to tell a tool what you want it to do.



System instructions: Added by the company that built the tool to decide how it should work.



AI Model: Trained on lots of data to generate responses to the prompt and system instructions.

Who decides how AI works in education?

When we use an AI tool, different people make decisions about how it works.



Teachers & schools: decide which AI tools to use in the classroom. With your parents/guardians, you might make decisions about using AI tools at home.



Education Tech Companies: decide what tools to make, which model to use, the data to share, and what safety measures to add.



AI Model Companies: decide how their models will work, what data to train on, and how to balance safety, speed, energy use, cost and accuracy of the model (among other things).

Who decides how AI works in education?

When we use an AI tool, different people make decisions about how it works.



Teachers & schools:



Education Tech Companies



AI Model Companies

The government can also set some of the rules for how each of these groups should behave.

Who decides how AI works in education?

- Sometimes education tech and AI model's are provided by the same company. Sometimes they are different companies.
- Schools sometimes have choice over which companies to buy education tools from. Sometimes they have to use tools provided by government or someone else.

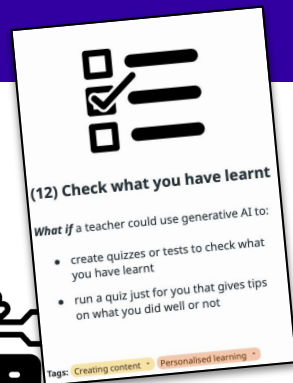
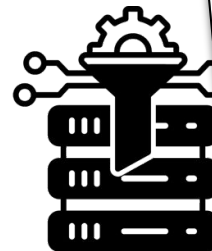
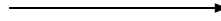
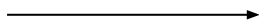


Education Tech Companies



AI Model Companies

Worked example



Prompt: *Create a quiz to test what Year 8 have learnt about magnets*

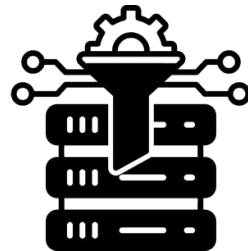
System instructions: *Each question should have 4 choices: one silly, two wrong and one right.*

The science curriculum says what Year 8 should know about magnets.

Model: *Fine tuned to always provide praise even when someone gets the wrong answer.*

Trained on hundreds of books, videos and websites about magnets.

Who decides? – Knowledge check / our worked e.g.

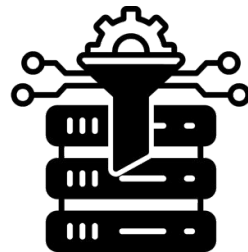
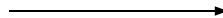
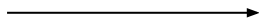


Prompt:

System instructions:

Model:

Who decides?



Prompt:

A teacher decides on how to prompt AI, or what data to feed in

System instructions:

An Education Tech company writes system instructions and configures the system

Model:

A model company decides how to train and fine-tune an AI platform.

Recap: Who decides how AI works in education?

- **The government provides rules and guidance**
- **Schools and teachers** decide which tools to use, and how to prompt them
- **Education Tech companies** decide what and how to make AI tools for education
- **AI Model companies** make decisions about the foundations on which many Generative AI education tools are built

Attributions

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This resource was commissioned by the Department for Education, and written by [Connected by Data](#), the campaign for communities to have a powerful say in decisions about data and AI.

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