

Artificial Intelligence Use Policy

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Nov 25	1.0	Reviewed and reformatted for Trust Portal

1. Introduction

- 1.1. At Leigh Academies Trust, we recognise the potential for Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly Generative AI, to transform how our Trust is managed and how pupils learn. This policy outlines our approach to integrating AI responsibly into how we run our Trust and how we deliver learning, enabling everyone to benefit from new technologies, educating them about safe, responsible and ethical AI use.
- 1.2. We recognise the guidance set out in the [Department for Education's Statement on Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education](#). This policy has been informed by that guidance.
- 1.3. All users of generative AI will comply with relevant laws, regulations, policies and guidelines governing [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), intellectual property, copyright the, [UK General Data Protection Regulation \(UK GDPR\)](#) and the **Data Protection Act 2018** and other relevant areas. We will prioritise the safeguarding of our pupils and their online safety and will not knowingly use any AI technology that puts them at greater risk. Staff will not provide intellectual property, including pupils' work, to be used to train Generative AI models without appropriate consents or exemptions in place.

2. Core principles

- 2.1. When we invest in, implement and use AI in our schools we follow these key principles:
 - **Equity and inclusion:** We commit to deploying AI technologies in a way that is equitable and promotes inclusion, addressing biases and ensuring fair access to educational opportunities for all pupils.
 - **Transparency:** We prioritise transparency in AI usage, ensuring that students, families, and staff understand how and where it is used and the effects on teaching and learning.
 - **Privacy:** We apply strict data protection standards, including safeguarding student and staff data used in AI applications. Our full data protection policy can be found [here](#).
 - **Accountability:** We hold ourselves accountable for the ethical design, development, and implementation of AI systems, regularly reviewing their impact and efficacy.
 - **Educational value:** We consider how AI applications align with the curriculum scope and objectives and serve to improve teaching and learning experiences and outcomes for pupils.
- 2.2. We use AI as an administrative and educational tool, and actively develop staff and pupils' AI literacy and skills. We use AI to help teachers manage their

workload rather than add to it, and to improve and streamline school operations to maximise time and resources available for teaching and learning.

3. Guidelines for staff

- 3.1. Staff must not share personal or private information with AI tools without permission from their manager unless using tools explicitly identified as being “closed” (not leaving our domain or training the model). Currently these closed tools include Gemini for Education, NotebookLM and TeachMate.
- 3.2. Staff are permitted to explore and use AI-based tools and technologies to support their work where no proprietary or personal information is shared with the AI tool. Examples may include use of licensed AI tools for lesson planning, production of curriculum materials, and administration. Staff must be transparent with their manager about their use of generative AI. Academies must consult with the Trust AI Lead before using new AI systems or software, and the appropriate [software approval processes](#) must be adhered to.
- 3.3. Staff must ensure that any potential new use of AI tools is assessed to consider if a [Data Protection Impact Assessment](#) is required.
- 3.4. To manage the risk that sensitive, personal or proprietary information is shared to third parties without proper permissions, staff should only use Trust approved software (Gemini, NotebookLM and TeachMate) instead of other tools such as ChatGPT and Claude.
- 3.5. AI tools will be used responsibly, ensuring they complement expertise but do not create a substitute for professional judgement. Staff remain professionally responsible and accountable for the quality and content of any output they have generated using AI.
 - **Understanding Generative AI:** Staff receive training on the capabilities and limitations of Generative AI tools, including an awareness of bias, accuracy and currency of information. They learn to quality-assure and fact-check the results, and use AI-generated content responsibly in their teaching materials.
 - **Professional judgement:** Staff exercise professional judgement in checking AI-generated content for accuracy, relevance, and appropriateness before use in educational settings. They are expected to provide context, and supplement AI-generated materials with their expertise.
 - **Personalisation and learning:** Staff must promote equity in education by considering use of AI to address learning gaps and provide personalised support, preparing all pupils for a future in which AI technology will be an integral part, being mindful of disparities in opportunities for different pupils.
 - **Data protection and Intellectual Property:** Staff are trained to protect personal and sensitive data, ensuring compliance with data protection legislation and other Trust policies, recognising the risks posed by AI. Staff

also need to respect pupils' intellectual property rights, ensuring that original work (including homework) is not used to train AI models without appropriate consent or exemption to copyright.

- 3.6. Teaching staff will emphasise to pupils the importance of critical thinking, creativity, and originality in their work. Clear guidelines and expectations will be communicated to pupils regarding the appropriate use of generative AI tools for homework and during assessments, ensuring that their work reflects their own efforts and understanding.
- 3.7. All staff, including school leaders, are responsible for reading and understanding this policy before using any AI technology. Staff must report any suspected breaches of this policy to the Trust AI Lead unless it is a data breach, in which case the normal [data breach process](#) should be followed.

4. Guidelines for Pupils

- 4.1. Pupils must be clear and transparent where work has been generated with the help of AI.
 - **Understanding Generative AI:** Pupils are educated on the capabilities and limitations of the most widely available, age-appropriate, Generative AI tools, empowering them to critically evaluate AI-generated content. They learn to discern between reliable and unreliable information and use AI tools responsibly.
 - **Responsible use:** Pupils are encouraged to use AI tools as aids to supplement their understanding rather than relying on AI-generated content. They are taught to quality-assure and fact-check information and get help from teachers and support staff when needed. Pupils are taught not to enter personal details or sensitive information into Generative AI tools. They are given appropriate guidance on how to reference in AI when required to provide clear referencing of sources. See our guide on [AI Academic Integrity and Assessment](#).
 - **Digital citizenship:** Pupils are trained in digital citizenship and online safety, including understanding the implications of sharing personal data and intellectual property online. They learn to protect their privacy and respect the intellectual property rights of others in digital environments.

5. Risk management

- 5.1. **Bias and discrimination:** We are committed to fairness and equality; we will reduce the risk of unfair outcomes by upskilling our staff to understand the potential for bias in AI-generated content and to monitor AI outputs to ensure fairness and equality.
- 5.2. **Data security:** Cybersecurity measures are implemented to reduce the risk of data breaches and unauthorised sharing of sensitive information, including

AI-generated content. Find out more about expectations around data security in our [IT Acceptable Use Policy](#).

- 5.3. **Academic integrity:** Measures are taken to prevent misuse of AI in assessments and safeguard the integrity of qualifications. Find out more about our approach to Academic integrity and AI [here](#).
- 5.4. **Online safety:** Guidance is provided to protect against harmful or inappropriate content online, including content generated by AI. You can read our full Online Safety policy [here](#). Cybersecurity companies are actively working on increasing their capabilities to identify and filter online content generated by AI.

6. Future skills development

- 6.1. **Knowledge-rich curriculum:** Students are equipped with foundational knowledge and critical thinking skills to effectively use emerging technologies like Generative AI. We offer a range of resources to support an AI curriculum. They can be found [here](#).

7. Feedback, evaluation and continuous improvement

- 7.1. We gather feedback from pupils, families, staff and other stakeholders, and engage in ongoing research to refine our use of generative AI, address concerns, and adapt to evolving educational needs. Feedback can be given through our annual parent and student surveys or through contacting the student's academy directly.

8. AI governance

- 8.1. Key staff at Leigh Academies Trust who are responsible for this policy's content and implementation:
 - Daniel Bull is the Trust lead for use of generative AI technology. They monitor compliance and work with the wider school community to communicate, promote and regulate AI use, including providing or arranging training where needed.
 - Our Data Protection Officer Richard Cottam is responsible for advising the Trust about our data protection obligations in relation to AI use.
 - Our IT Security lead is Steve Maycock, Deputy Director - IT Systems who ensures that AI technologies are compatible with our cyber security systems.
 - Dr Jodie Wetherall, Trust Director, will be responsible for the Governance of AI and hold the Trust to account for adopting this policy and adhering to it.
 - Academies will also have an AI Lead who can support staff at a local level.

9. AI and pupils with SEND

- 9.1. At Leigh Academies Trust, we recognise the potential of AI tools to support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by offering personalised learning experiences, adaptive content, and assistive technologies. In turn, this helps break down barriers to learning and improve accessibility.
- 9.2. However, we are also aware that AI systems may embed or amplify biases and may not always accurately reflect individual learning needs. Therefore:
- AI tools will only be used to support SEND pupils where their use has been discussed with the relevant staff and, where appropriate, with the pupil and their parents or carers.
 - AI-assisted content used in interventions or differentiated instruction will be reviewed by qualified staff to ensure accessibility and appropriateness.
 - We do not rely on AI-generated recommendations as a substitute for professional judgement, EHCPs, or specialist assessments.
 - We will work to ensure equity of access to appropriate tools for pupils with SEND and will monitor impact through our usual review processes.
- 9.3. LAT Inclusion Advisor Sue Mason, is responsible for advising on the safe and appropriate use of AI tools for pupils with SEND and for supporting relevant staff training.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1. At Leigh Academies Trust, we are committed to harnessing AI technologies responsibly where they can improve teaching and learning outcomes. By applying ethical principles, promoting transparency, and implementing measures to safeguard pupils, we aim to use AI effectively for the benefit of our school community.
- 10.2. This policy was updated September 2025 and will be reviewed August 2026 or when there are relevant changes to statutory guidance, whichever happens soonest.

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