



The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School Use of artificial intelligence (AI) policy

SLT Lead: Headteacher

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The school's vision

Jesus said: "I have come that they may have life, life in all its fullness." This serves as the cornerstone of our school community. By fostering a culture of positive learning experiences rooted in core Christian values, we aim to equip our students for a life of resilience, fulfilment, and meaningful contribution to society.

This policy supports our school vision and ethos.

Contents

Contents	2
1. Aims and scope	2
2. Legislation	3
3. Regulatory principles	3
4. Roles and responsibilities	4
5. Staff and governors use of AI	6
6. Educating students about AI	7
7. Use of AI by students	8
8. Formal assessments	8
9. Staff training	9
10. Referral to our child protection and safeguarding policy	9
11. Breach of this policy	9
12. Monitoring and transparency	10
13. Links with other policies	10
Appendix 1: Approved uses of AI tools (table)	11

1. Aims and scope

Here at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School we understand the valuable potential that artificial intelligence (AI), including generative AI, holds for schools. For example, it can be used to enhance pedagogical methods, customise learning experiences and progress educational innovation.

We are also aware of the risks posed by AI, including data protection breaches, copyright issues, ethical complications, safeguarding and compliance with wider legal obligations.

Therefore, the aim of this policy is to establish guidelines for the ethical, secure and responsible use of AI technologies across our whole school community.

This policy covers the use of AI tools by school staff, governors and students. This includes generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Gemini (please note, this list is not exhaustive).

This policy aims to:

- Support the use of AI to enhance teaching and learning
- Support staff to explore AI solutions to improve efficiency and reduce workload
- Prepare staff, governors and students for a future in which AI technology will be an integral part
- Promote equity in education by using AI to address learning gaps and provide personalised support
- Ensure that AI technologies are used ethically and responsibly by all staff, governors and students
- Protect the privacy and personal data of staff, governors and students in compliance with the UK GDPR

1.1 Definitions

This policy refers to both 'open' and 'closed' generative AI tools. These are defined as follows:

- Open generative AI tools are accessible and modifiable by anyone. They may store, share or learn from the information entered into them, including personal or sensitive information
- Closed generative AI tools are generally more secure, as external parties cannot access the data you input

2. Legislation

This policy reflects good practice guidelines/recommendations in the following publications:

- [AI regulation white paper](#), published by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, and the Office for Artificial Intelligence
- [Generative artificial intelligence \(AI\) and data protection in schools](#), published by the Department for Education (DfE)
- This policy also meets the requirements of the:
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) – the EU GDPR was incorporated into UK legislation, with some amendments, by [The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendments etc\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018 \(DPA 2018\)](#)

3. Regulatory principles

We follow the 5 principles set out in the [AI regulation white paper](#).

REGULATORY PRINCIPLE	WE WILL ...
Safety, security and robustness	• Ensure that AI solutions are secure and safe for users and protect users' data • Ensure we can identify and rectify bias or error • Anticipate threats such as hacking
Appropriate transparency and explainability	• Be transparent about our use of AI, and make sure we understand the suggestions it makes
Fairness	• Only use AI solutions that are ethically appropriate, equitable and free from prejudice – in particular, we will fully consider any bias relating to small groups and protected characteristics before using AI, monitor bias closely and correct problems where appropriate
Accountability and governance	• Ensure that the governing board and staff have clear roles and responsibilities in relation to the monitoring, evaluation, maintenance and use of AI

REGULATORY PRINCIPLE	WE WILL ...
Contestability and redress	• Make sure that staff are empowered to correct and overrule AI suggestions – decisions should be made by the user of AI, not the technology • Allow and respond appropriately to concerns and complaints where AI may have caused error resulting in adverse consequences or unfair treatment

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.0 AI leads

Our generative AI leads are Sean Mason (ICT Services Team Leader) and Nic Carpenter (Lead Teacher of Computing). They are responsible for the day-to-day leadership, ownership and management of AI use in the school.

4.1 Governing board

The governing board will:

- Take overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation in line with the school's expectations
- Ensure the headteacher and AI lead is/are appropriately supported to make informed decisions regarding the effective and ethical use of AI in the school
- Adhere to the guidelines below to protect data when using generative AI tools:
- Use only approved AI tools (see section 5 and appendix 1)
- Seek advice from the data protection officer (HY), AI leads and the designated safeguarding lead, as appropriate
- Check whether they are using an open or closed generative AI tool
- Ensure there is no identifiable information included in what they put into open generative AI tools
- Acknowledge or reference the use of generative AI in their work
- Fact-check results to make sure the information is accurate

4.2 Headteacher

The headteacher will:

- With the AI lead, take responsibility for the day-to-day leadership and management of AI use in the school
- Liaise with the data protection officer (DPO) to ensure that the use of AI is in accordance with data protection legislation
- Liaise with the DSL to ensure that the use of AI is in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education and the school's child protection and safeguarding policy
- Ensure that the guidance set out in this policy is followed by all staff

- Review and update this AI policy as appropriate, and at least every 2 years.
- Ensure staff are appropriately trained in the effective use and potential risks of AI
- Make sure students are taught about the effective use and potential risks of AI
- Tracked suggested uses of AI, or new AI tools, taking into account advice from the DPO, AI leads and data protection impact assessments

4.3 Data protection officer (DPO)

The data protection officer (DPO) is responsible for monitoring and advising on our compliance with data protection law, including in relation to the use of AI.

Our DPO is HY Education and is contactable via DPO@wearehy.com

The School Business Manager (SBM), J Christopher, acts as the link between the school and HY Education as our DPO provider.

4.4 Designated safeguarding lead (DSL) & Deputy DSL

The DSL and Deputy DSL are responsible for monitoring and advising on our compliance with safeguarding requirements including in relation to the use of AI, such as:

- Being aware of new and emerging safeguarding threats posed by AI
- Updating and delivering staff training on AI safeguarding threats
- Responding to safeguarding incidents in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) and the school's child protection and safeguarding policy
- Understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place on school devices

The school's DSL is Mr P Gibbins and is contactable via PGibbins@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk

The school's Deputy DSL is Mr JvNicholas and is contactable via JNicholas@BHBS.hereford.sch.uk

4.5 All staff

As part of our aim to reduce staff workload while improving outcomes for our students, we encourage staff to explore opportunities to meet these objectives through the use of approved AI tools. Any use of AI must follow the guidelines set out in this policy.

To protect data when using generative AI tools, staff must:

- Use only suggested AI tools (see section 5, appendix 1 and the staff approved list in MS Teams)
- Seek advice from the School Business Manager & / or AI leads as appropriate
- Report safeguarding concerns to the DSL in line with our school's child protection and safeguarding policy
- Check whether they are using an open or closed generative AI tool
- Ensure there is no identifiable information included in what they put into open generative AI tools
- Acknowledge or reference the use of generative AI in their work, when necessary
- Fact-check results to make sure the information is accurate

All staff play a role in ensuring that students understand the potential benefits and risks of using AI in their learning. All of our staff have a responsibility to guide students in critically evaluating AI-generated information and understanding its limitations.

4.6 Students

Students must:

- Follow the guidelines set out in section 7 of this policy ('Use of AI by students')

5. Staff and governors' use of AI

5.1 Approved use of AI

We are committed to helping staff and governors reduce their workload. Generative AI tools can make certain written tasks quicker and easier to complete but cannot replace the judgement and knowledge of a human expert.

Whatever tools or resources are used to produce plans, policies or documents, the quality and content of the final document remains the professional responsibility of the person who produced it.

Any member of staff or governor using an AI-generated plan, policy or document should only share the AI-generated content with other members of staff or governors for use if they are confident of the accuracy of the information, as the content remains the professional responsibility of the person who produced it.

Always consider whether AI is the right tool to use. Just because the school has suggested its use doesn't mean it will always be appropriate.

The table in Appendix 1 highlights some suggested AI tools and their potential use. A more detailed document summarising some suggested AI tools and their potential use is kept in the staff G: drive and 'All Staff' MS Team.

5.2 Process for additions to the school's suggested AI list

Staff are welcome to suggest new ways of using AI to improve student outcomes and reduce workload. Staff should contact the headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team or AI Leads to discuss any ideas they may have with regards to using AI, so the headteacher or a member of the senior leadership team or AI leads can take the suggestions forward if they deem it to be a satisfactory new method of working and add it to the tracking list.

The headteacher is responsible for signing off on suggested uses of AI, or new AI tools, taking into account advice from the member of the senior leadership team or AI leads, the DPO and data protection impact assessments.

5.3 Data protection and privacy

To ensure that personal and sensitive data remains secure, no one will be permitted to enter such data into unauthorised generative AI tools or chatbots.

If personal and/or sensitive data is entered into an unauthorised generative AI tool, The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School will treat this as a data breach and will follow the personal data breach procedure outlined in our data protection policy. Please also refer to section 10 of this policy.

5.4 Intellectual property

Most generative AI tools use inputs submitted by users to train and refine their models.

Students own the intellectual property (IP) rights to original content they create. This is likely to include anything that shows working out or is beyond multiple choice questions.

Students' work must not be used by staff to train generative AI models without appropriate consent or exemption to copyright.

Exemptions to copyright are limited – we will seek legal advice if we are unsure as to whether we are acting within the law.

5.5 Bias

We are aware that AI tools can perpetuate existing biases, particularly towards protected characteristics including sex, race and disability. For this reason, critical thought must be applied to all outputs of authorised AI applications. This means fact and sense-checking the output.

We will ensure we can identify and rectify bias or error by training staff in this area, as and when necessary.

We also regularly review our use of AI to identify and correct any biases that may arise.

If parents/carers or students have any concerns or complaints about potential unfair treatment or other negative outcomes as a consequence of AI use, these will be dealt with through our usual concerns and complaints procedure.

5.6 Raising concerns

We encourage staff and governors to speak to the AI Leads in the first instance if they have any concerns about a proposed use of AI, or the use of AI that may have resulted in errors that lead to adverse consequences or unfair treatment. AI leads will then judge if it is necessary to take these concerns to the headteacher.

Safeguarding concerns arising from the use of generative AI must be reported immediately to the DSL in accordance with our school's child protection and safeguarding policy.

5.7 Ethical and responsible use

We will always:

- Use generative AI tools ethically and responsibly
- Remember the principles set out in our school's equality policy when using generative AI tools
- Consider whether the tool has real-time internet access, or access to information up to a certain point in time, as this may impact the accuracy of the output
- Fact and sense-check the output before relying on it
- Staff and governors must not:
 - Generate content to impersonate, bully or harass another person
 - Generate explicit or offensive content
 - Input offensive, discriminatory or inappropriate content as a prompt

6. Educating students about AI

Here at The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School we acknowledge that students benefit from a knowledge-rich curriculum that allows them to become well-informed users of technology and understand its impact on society. Strong foundational knowledge will ensure that students develop the right skills to make the best use of generative AI.

The school is constantly reviewing its Skills 4 Life (PSHE) and Computing curriculum to ensure that students are taught about AI, especially:

- Creating and using digital content safely and responsibly
- The limitations, reliability and potential bias of generative AI
- How information on the internet is organised and ranked
- Online safety to protect against harmful or misleading content linked to AI

7. Use of AI by students

We recognise that AI has many uses to help students learn.

Students may use AI tools:

- As a research tool to help them find out about new topics and ideas
- When specifically studying and discussing AI in schoolwork, for example in IT lessons or art homework about AI-generated images
- All AI-generated content must be properly attributed and appropriate for the students' age and educational needs.
- AI may also lend itself to cheating and plagiarism. To mitigate this, students may not use AI tools:
 - During assessments, including internal and external assessments, and non-examined assessments (NEA)
- This list of AI misuse is not exhaustive. Misuse of AI may include:
 - To write their homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text is presented as their own work
 - To complete their homework, where AI is used to answer questions set and is presented as their own work (for example, maths calculations).

Where AI tools have been used as a source of information or solution, students should, as good practice, reference their use of AI. The reference must show the name of the AI source and the date the content was generated. This is especially important where students have used AI to help with homework questions or tasks that the student found challenging but wanted a solution for so that they could move forward with their learning.

We consider any unattributed use of AI-generated text or imagery to be plagiarism and will follow our plagiarism procedures as set out in examinations policy.

Students must consider what is ethical and appropriate in their use of AI and must not:

- Generate content to impersonate, bully or harass another person
- Generate or share explicit or offensive content, including, but not limited to, generating inappropriate or sexualised images of students
- Input offensive, discriminatory or inappropriate content as a prompt

8. Formal assessments

We will continue to take reasonable steps where applicable to prevent malpractice involving the use of generative AI in assessments. Please see our exams / assessment policy for more details.

We will follow the latest guidance published by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) on [AI use in assessments](#).

9. Staff training

Staff will receive training on the use of AI through the following activities:

- Online staff CPD linked to safeguarding
- Staff inset days and sessions
- Teaching and learning briefings
- Curriculum team meetings
- Staff byte updates
- External CPD courses

10. Referral to our child protection and safeguarding policy

The school is aware that the use of generative AI may in some circumstances lead to safeguarding concerns including, but not limited to:

- Sexual grooming
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual extortion
- Child sexual abuse/exploitation material
- Harmful content
- Harmful advertisements and promotions
- Bullying

Where there are safeguarding concerns arising from the use of generative AI, a report must be made to the DSL immediately.

Any such incident will be dealt with according to the procedures set out in the school's child protection and safeguarding policy and child protection referral process.

11. Breach of this policy

11.1 By staff

Breach of this policy by staff will be dealt with in line with our staff code of conduct.

Where disciplinary action is appropriate, it may be taken whether the breach occurs:

- During or outside of working hours
- On an individual's own device or a school device
- At home, at school or from a remote working location

Staff members will be required to co-operate with any investigation into a suspected breach of this policy. This may involve providing us with access to:

- The generative AI application in question (whether or not it is one authorised by the school)
- Any relevant passwords or login details

You must report any breach of this policy, either by you or by another member of staff, to the headteacher immediately.

11.2 By governors

Breaches of this policy by Governors will be dealt with in line with our Governors code of conduct.

11.3 By students

Any breach of this policy by a student will be dealt with in line with our behaviour policy, examinations malpractice policy and, if required, our child protection and safeguarding policy.

12. Monitoring and transparency

AI technology, and the benefits, risks and harms related to it, evolves and changes rapidly. Consequently, this policy is a live document that must be kept updated by the Headteacher and AI leads whenever there is a significant change to either AI use by the school or the associated risks of AI usage.

This policy will also be regularly reviewed and updated to align with emerging best practices, technological advancements and changes in regulations.

The policy will be shared with the full governing board at least every 2 years .

All teaching staff are expected to read and follow this policy. The Headteacher and AI leads are responsible for ensuring that the policy is followed.

The AI leads will monitor the effectiveness of AI usage across the school.

We will ensure we keep members of the school community up to date on the use of AI technologies for educational purposes. As part of our surveys, feedback from students, parents/carers and staff will be considered in the ongoing evaluation and development of AI use in school

13. Links with other policies

This AI policy may be linked to our:

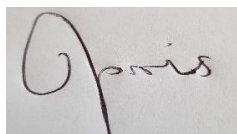
- Data protection policy
- Safeguarding/child protection policy
- Assessment and feedback policy
- Exams policy
- Rewards and Behaviour policy
- Staff code of conduct
- ICT acceptable use policy
- Online safety policy
- Equality policy

Appendix 1: Approved AI tools and suggested uses (table)

Note that open-source AI tools / open AI tools, meaning tools that anyone can access and modify, should only be used for tasks that don't require personal information to be input.

APPROVED AI TOOLS	SUGGESTED FOR	SUGGESTED USES
KeyGPT	• Teachers • Associate staff • Governors	• Letter / emails to parents/carers • Job descriptions and adverts • Interview questions
Oak Academy AI lesson planner	• Teachers • Associate staff	Lesson planning
Microsoft Copilot Google Gemini ChatGPT Claude Apple Intelligence	• Teachers • Associate staff • Students • Governors	• Letter/emails to parents/carers • Job descriptions and adverts • Research • Summarising documents • Checking grammar • Improving style • Generating drafts • Summarizing notes • Image creation • Generating teaching resources (quiz / text / texts)
DALL-E Firefly	• Teachers • Associate staff • Students	• Image creation
Grammarly	• Teachers • Associate staff • Students • Governors	• Checking grammar • Improving style, • Generating drafts • Summarizing notes.
Google Assistant Siri Alexa	• Teachers • Associate staff • Students • Governors	• Setting reminders • Managing calendars • Getting real-time information

Approved by Full Governing Body

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Davis', is shown within a rectangular frame.

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Chairman

July 2026

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Date