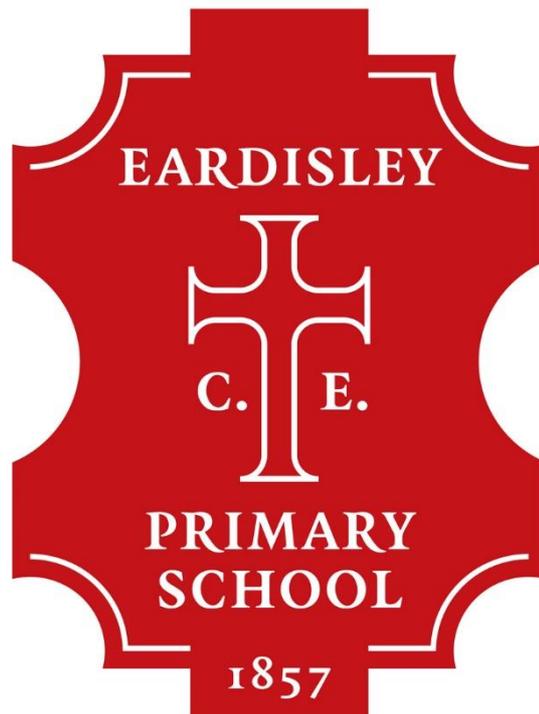


Eardisley CE Primary School

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) policy



In all that we do, may our values shine through.

Date Agreed: February 2026

Review Date: February 2027

Contents

1. Aims and scope	2
2. Legislation	3
3. Regulatory principles	3
4. Roles and responsibilities	4
5. Staff use of AI	5
6. Educating pupils about AI.....	7
7. Staff training.....	7
8. Breach of this Policy.....	7
9. Monitoring and transparency.....	8
10. Links with other policies	8

1. Aims and scope

Here at Eardisley CE Primary 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 pupils. 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 pupils 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 pupils
- Protect the privacy and personal data of staff, governors and pupils 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be transparent about our use of AI, and make sure we understand the suggestions it makes
Fairness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that the governors and staff have clear roles and responsibilities in relation to the monitoring, evaluation, maintenance and use of AI
Contestability and redress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 Evaluators

Requests for use of generative AI tools are reviewed by Simon Eades (ICT Network Manager). They are responsible for evaluating any new AI tool presented to them and reporting on the suitability of these tools in school with reference to DFE guidance; [Generative artificial intelligence \(AI\) in education - GOV.UK](#) and [Generative AI: product safety expectations - GOV.UK](#)

4.1 Governing Board

The governors will:

- Take overall responsibility for monitoring this policy and holding the Headteacher to account for its implementation in line with the school's AI strategy
- Ensure the Headteacher is 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)
 - Seek advice from the Headteacher / Data Protection Officer / AI Evaluator, 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:

- Liaise with the AI Evaluators on 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
- 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 annually
- Ensure staff are appropriately trained in the effective use and potential risks of AI
- Make sure pupils are taught about the effective use and potential risks of AI
- Sign off on approved uses of AI, or new AI tools, taking into account advice from the DPO, AI Evaluators 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. Day to day system management and monitoring is conducted by Sitech.

Our DPO is Samantha Smith and is contactable via igschools@herefordshire.gov.uk

4.4 Safeguarding lead

The safeguarding lead is 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)

4.5 All staff

As part of our aim to reduce staff workload while improving outcomes for our pupils, 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 approved AI tools (see section 5)
- › Seek advice from the data protection officer / AI Evaluator, as appropriate
- › Check whether they are using an open or closed generative AI tool
- › Not upload student work into an open AI tool as this risks infringing intellectual property rights
- › 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

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

4.6 Pupils

Pupils are not permitted to utilise AI software on school systems

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 remain the professional responsibility of the person who produced it.

Any plans, policies or documents created using AI should be clearly attributed. 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 approved its use doesn't mean it will always be appropriate.

Approved tools	Approved uses
Arbor AI (closed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report writing
Teachmate (closed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report writing / lesson planning
ChatGPT (open)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating ideas and outlines • Summarising information • Creating written content (non-confidential)
Copilot (closed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document drafting (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) • Writing support (reports, plans, letters) • Lesson resource creation
Notebook LM (open)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports • Summarising information
Gemini (open)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating ideas and outlines • Creating written content (non-confidential)

5.2 Process for approval

Staff are welcome to suggest new ways of using AI to improve pupil outcomes and reduce workload. Staff should contact the AI Evaluators to discuss any ideas they may have with regards to using AI, so they can take the suggestions forward if they deem it to be a satisfactory new method of working.

The Headteacher is responsible for signing off on approved uses of AI, or new AI tools, taking into account advice from the AI Evaluators, 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, Eardisley School will treat this as a data breach and will follow the personal data breach procedure outlined in our data protection policy.

5.4 Intellectual property

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

Pupils 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.

Pupils' work must not be used by staff to train generative AI models. This means staff must not upload pupil's work to open generative AI models.

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 special characteristics including sex, race and disability. This means that critical thought must be applied to all outputs of authorised AI applications. This means fact and sense-checking the output before relying on it.

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

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

If parents/carers or pupils 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 complaints procedure.

5.6 Raising concerns

We encourage staff and governors to speak to the Headteacher 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.

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 pupils about AI

Here at Eardisley School we acknowledge that pupils 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 pupils develop the right skills to make the best use of generative AI.

7. Staff training

Staff are informed of this policy and any relevant changes once they are approved by governors. In addition, staff are trained on online safety and the use of AI annually in professional training days. Updates relating to AI are provided to staff as applicable and any use of AI must be approved by the Headteacher after consideration by the AI Evaluators. Thus staff will become more adapt at understanding the safe use of AI and its appropriateness in the school environment.

8. Breach of this policy

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.

9. 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 will be kept updated 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 Board of Governors at least annually.

All teaching staff are expected to read and follow this policy.

The Network Manager 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 regular surveys, feedback from pupils, parents/carers and staff will be considered in the ongoing evaluation and development of AI use in school.

10. Links with other policies

This AI policy is linked to our:

- Data protection policy
- Behaviour policy
- Staff code of conduct
- ICT acceptable use policy
- Online safety policy
- Equality policy