AI Use Declaration

I used Copilot on VSC editor during November and December 2025 while working on this project. The model was listed as GPT-5 minil coding assistant.

I mainly asked for help with a few specific kinds of tasks:
1. Designing the database, and recommending the file structure
2. Cleaning up and organizing the CSS: moving repeated styles into a central file and making sure the layout works on different screen sizes.
3. Creating an HTML email template for sending payment reminders via SendGrid, with placeholders for things like customer name and balance.
4. Debugging PHP issues on the school server, like fixing broken file paths, sorting out database errors, and switching from hard-coded credentials to environment variables.
5. Creating seed data for database during development

I used quite a bit of what the AI suggested, but I always tweaked it afterward. For example, the email template was generated by ChatGPT, but I adjusted the wording and styling to fit. Same with the CSS. I used its suggestions as a starting point, then adjusted to match the look I wanted. For the design, I gave the AI the idea and a draft of my database schema and it helped me and the AI helped me confirm that it was okay and suggested more fields. It also suggested the initial file structure

The AI was a helper, not the author. I relied on it mostly for debugging ideas and code refactoring, but I made all the final decisions and integrated everything into the project myself.

I checked all the AI-generated code carefully. I tested it on my local setup and on the course server, fixed any issues, and made sure it matched the project requirements, especially database changes and login security.

All in all, I used ChatGPT to speed up some repetitive tasks, solve bugs, and improve the design but I stayed in charge of the final outcome and made sure everything actually worked.