

# Generative AI in Education

## Have your say: Engagement Report

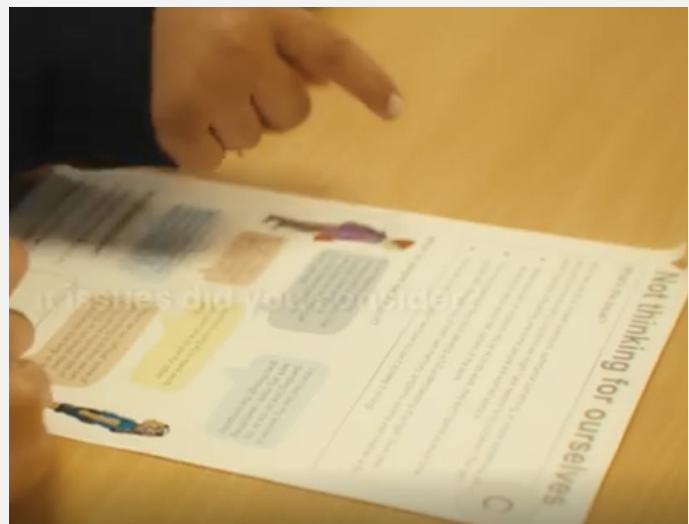
What do 1,000 students across England have to say about how AI should be used in schools?



In Autumn 2025, hundreds of students aged 10-18 across England took part in a distributed dialogue to discuss generative AI in education.



They looked at AI tools, issues with AI, and developed messages for AI makers and decision makers



**6 weeks**  
over November  
and December  
2025

**23 settings**  
schools, colleges  
and community  
workshops

**> 50  
workshops**  
of 60 - 120  
minutes each

**> 1000  
students**  
taking part &  
sharing views

The distributed dialogue provided a 'workshop in a box' for schools and colleges to run informed, deliberative workshops about Generative AI in Education and to share student views through a feedback portal.

# We asked students to think about different AI tools for education.

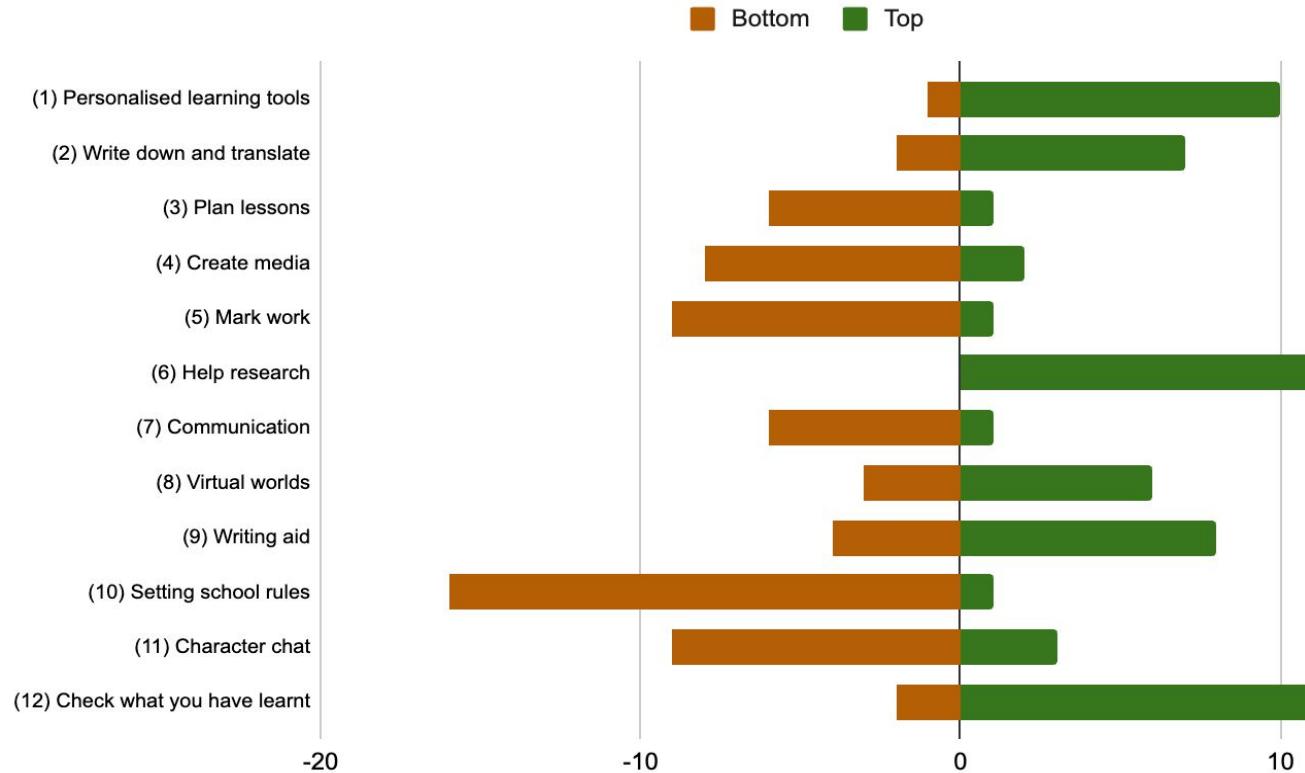
Top tools were those that put students in control of their own research, allow students to work at their own pace, and focus on personalised revision or reminders of the key things you need to learn.

*"[these] would support us without feeling like it was cheating or we weren't learning the information."*

AI for lesson planning and marking featured most commonly in the 'bottom three' of the rankings.

*"Work is something we put a lot of effort into and we feel it needs to be read by a teacher."*

Top and bottom tool ratings



**(1) Personalised learning tools**  
What if a school provided generative AI tools that created:

- different worksheets for each student based on your past work
- a study chatbot that uses data about you to help you learn

Tags: Personalised learning, Accessibility

**(2) Write down and translate**  
What if a teacher used generative AI tools to:

- automatically create notes from lessons or classroom discussions
- translate notes for students who speak different languages

Tags: Personalised learning, Accessibility

**(4) Create media**  
What if a teacher could use generative AI to:

- make images, videos and media class

or you could use generative AI to:

- make media for your homework

Tags: Creating content, Creative Learning

**(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

## Groups voted on a set of statements about Generative AI in Education.

Students could also suggest their own statements for others to vote on.

We used the pol.is platform that creates distinct clusters of respondents and statements based on (a) bringing together groups that responded in similar ways to statements; (b) separating out groups that responded differently.



### Cluster 1: AI sceptics

24 groups – 49%

This cluster said: AI use should not be compulsory; there should be restrictions on data sharing with AI, and on where AI is used.

### Cluster 2: Trusting users

16 groups – 33%

This cluster said: AI must be accurate, and AI tools tailored for educational use. Then it can be a useful part of learning.

### Cluster 3: Self-assured users

9 groups – 18%

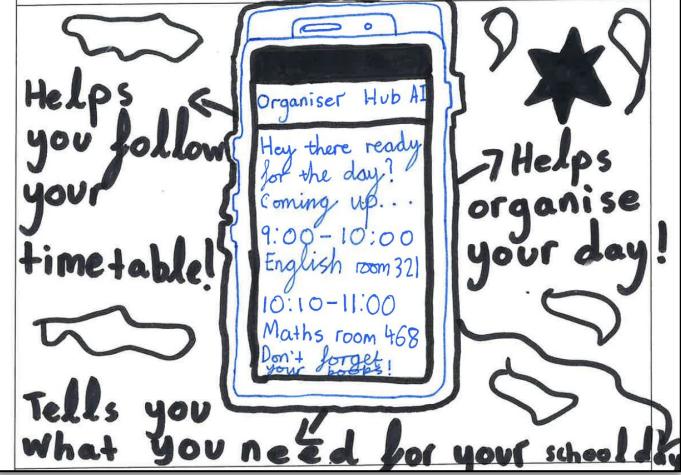
This cluster said students should be allowed or encouraged to use AI and should take responsibility for being aware of its limitations.

**Help People**

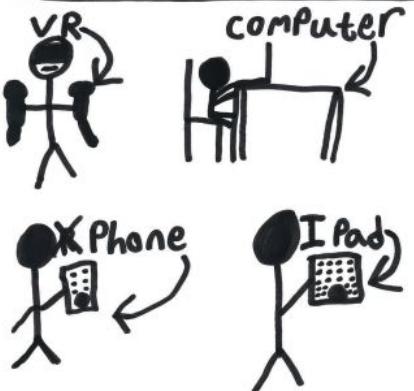
do now homework



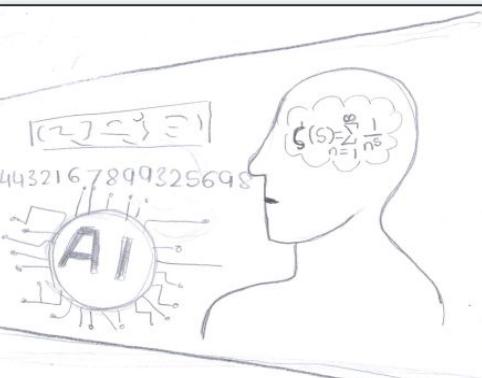
Draw your Education App



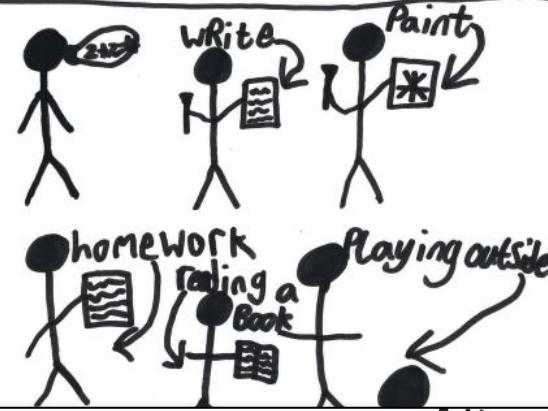
**Education with AI**



I want to see Generative AI used in education Because it will make it more fun for us when we're learning.



**Education without AI**



To Department of Education,  
I think we should be able to use AI to create images and create independent learning tools to help with our learning as teachers can't help everyone at the same time. It would be good to make resources to help other people who might be stuck on the same thing as you. However, I don't think that we should rely on AI as it controls how much information we take in, and we wouldn't learn much.

White AI is very useful to people trying to learn and especially people who speak in different languages. It can and likely will make mistakes whilst also limiting children's independence and knowledge of specific subjects.

We can counteract this by having an AI that answers questions but doesn't generate full scale games or full documents of work. An AI that limits cheating would be the best for education scenarios.

Dear sir/madam, I think that AI shouldn't be used for homework and school education because it will affect students when they are doing a test.

I think AI in schools could be useful if used correctly that is because it can help students with grammar when on computers like grammar also some generators help you to teach them better. It would put more time teachers out of the job. I think if it was used there should be defined a "school mode" which doesn't allow you to ask for answers or to do work for you, instead only helping you and giving constructive feedback and suggestions. Even this if this does come into place, the answers AI gives still can be incorrect and disingenuous, as it has never been in a classroom or had experiences with it, not making it suited for teaching or creating lessons.

To the Department of Education,

I currently think that AI should be banned from schools. This is because AI makes mistakes. AI is currently used in schools to check or to get out of doing assignments. If we were to use AI it would be better if it was used in school there should be defined a "school mode" which doesn't allow you to ask for answers or to do work for you, instead only helping you and giving constructive feedback and suggestions. Even this if this does come into place, the answers AI gives still can be incorrect and disingenuous, as it has never been in a classroom or had experiences with it, not making it suited for teaching or creating lessons.



**Creative feedback** demonstrated how students feel about the importance of **the student-teacher relationship**, using AI to make lessons more engaging, and to support **personalised and self-directed learning**.

Students want to be prepared to navigate a future world where AI may be ubiquitous, but where they can make choices about how to use it.



# 3 Recommendations

# 1. Take the time to get generative AI in education right.

Students want assurance that AI is accurate, and that bias and safety risks of AI are well addressed before it is deployed in the classroom. Focus on limited classroom and homework uses of AI, rather than AI everywhere.

The Department for Education's updated **“Generative AI: product safety standards”** reflect many of the concerns raised by students during the distributed dialogue.

More at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/generative-ai-product-safety-standards>

## **2. Embed a role for students in decision-making on AI.**

AI for education should be co-designed with student input. Support should be available for teachers and education leaders to have ongoing and informed dialogue with students about shared expectations around AI in education.

The ‘workshop in a box’ remains available to support local school dialogues. Connected by Data can also provide advice to companies on involving affected communities in tool design and governance.

### **3. Build student agency in a world of AI.**

Young people hold a diversity of attitudes towards AI and its future use. Support students to learn about the pros and cons of particular uses of AI, and to make informed individual and collective choices about when and how they engage with it.

Many teachers told us they were surprised by the views students expressed during workshops. Students, teachers and parents all need regular opportunities to discuss the use of Generative AI in Education.

**Government has responded.** At the Generative AI for Education Summit The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education said:

*"We recently spoke to more than a thousand young people across the country to put their views at the centre of how we use generative AI in the classroom.*

*...the message was clear: students strongly value personal attention from their teachers and social interaction with their friends.*

*They want AI to support those relationships, to help teachers provide personalised feedback.*



*But they don't want AI to eliminate the human connection.*

*And they're absolutely spot on.*

*So under this government, AI will back our teachers, but never remove them. AI will empower our teaching assistants, never make them obsolete."*

Read more: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-speech-at-global-ai-safety-summit>

**For the Summit, the Department for Education has also published updated AI product safety expectations** which add sections on: Cognitive development; Emotional and social development; Mental health and Manipulation. These reflect many of the ideas that students raised during the dialogues.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/generative-ai-product-safety-standards>

