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**The Charter Schools Educational Trust**

**A Parent’s Guide to Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

*Together, we can ensure our children navigate the world of AI with confidence and responsibility.*

### **🤖 What Is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems that perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence. This includes understanding language, recognising patterns, and making decisions. AI is increasingly present in educational tools, social media, and everyday applications.You've probably already used AI without even realising it—like when you ask a voice assistant to help you with something or when you get a suggestion on YouTube or Netflix!

### **🔗Why is AI Relevant to Our Children?**

Pupils may encounter AI through:

* **Educational Platforms**: Personalised learning experiences, especially homework.
* **Social Media**: Content recommendations and chatbots including SnapChat AI.
* **Creative Tools**: AI-generated art and writing assistance.
* **Large Language Models**: Using tools such as ChatGPT to help answer questions.

### **✅ Benefits of AI in Education**

* **Get help with homework** – AI can explain tricky topics, give summaries of articles or books, or help your child brainstorm ideas. AI can support them with homework, but it cannot do the homework for them!
* **Feedback on writing** – AI can check grammar, spelling, and structure, or give suggestions to improve their work (but it’s up to *them* to make the final changes).
* **Spark creativity** – AI can help children write poems, generate story starters, or suggest new ways to approach a project or piece of art.
* **Translate languages** – Tools like Google Translate or AI chatbots can help with learning new words and sentence structures.
* **Make revision more fun** – You can ask AI to quiz your child, create flashcards, or explain things in simpler terms.
* **Create media** – Some tools make images, videos, or music using just text prompts or ideas.
* **Get organised** - AI can help your child schedule their homework or their revision; it can even help them prioritise tasks and keep track of what they have done.

### **⚠️ Potential Risks and Considerations**

* **Privacy Concerns**: AI collects a huge amount of data, including personal data.
* **Mistakes and bias**: AI can make mistakes or give biased or made-up answers. AI may reflect or amplify existing societal biases e.g. relating to gender or ethnicity.
* **Overreliance**: Dependence on AI tools to complete homework may hinder critical thinking development.
* **Environmental impact:** Generating AI uses a huge amount of energy.

### **💡Guidance for Parents**

1. **Stay informed**: Learn about the AI tools your child uses.

E.g. Ask your child about their top 3 tools and why they like them.

1. **Protect privacy**: Ensure personal information is safeguarded.

E.g. Go through the settings on your child's devices and apps - do this together if appropriate. Discuss changes to make.

1. **Open dialogue**: Discuss the role and impact of AI in daily life.

E.g. Share when you have used an AI tool , what for, and the pros and cons; ask your child to do the same, and discuss your experiences. Set a reminder to repeat this in a month or two's time.

1. **Set boundaries**: Establish guidelines for AI tool usage.

E.g. Try working out together what safe, ethical and valuable AI use would be for them. Ask them to suggest this for you, too!

1. **Encourage critical thinking**: Teach children to question and assess AI-generated content.

E.g. Ask your child to tell you about a time when an AI tool generated something they did not trust, or a time when it gave them an answer they did not expect. Ask them about their reactions; ask them about what they did; ask them if they would like to explore an AI tool together and discuss what it produces.

For further parental specific guidance please refer to [this guide](https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Parent-guide-using-artificial-intelligence-Internet-Matters-May-2023.pdf?utm_source=email_16_Sprint_29_Feb_SecondarySchool&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Schools&utm_content=_AI_Report_Parents_Guid) to using AI with children and your people created by internetmatters.org.