AI in Education

Impact report 2024-25

AI in
Education
AI-in-Education.co.uk

Executive summary

AI in Education (AiEd) exists to ensure every UK learner can benefit from artificial intelligence tools that are safe, ethical and effective. In just our second year we moved from start-up to fully registered charity, laying the foundations for long-term, system-wide impact.

Key achievements:

- **250+ schools and colleges** now progress through our AI Certified framework, embedding responsible AI practice in classrooms, leadership teams and safeguarding processes
- **70 pupils** from 12 partner schools formed a national pupil panel, shaping resources & speaking at headline events such as BETT & the British Library AI Fringe
- We launched an **AI-powered evidence hub**, expanded our CPD library and secured multi-year funding to August 2026, giving the organisation stability to scale
- Formal **charitable status (March 2025)** strengthened governance, unlocked new grant channels and reaffirmed our public-benefit mission

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Message from the Trustees

This year has been a defining one for AI in Education.

In a time of rapid technological change and uncertainty, our organisation has stepped forward with clarity, purpose and credibility. We are proud to have secured funding, launched an innovative AI-powered platform, expanded our training provision and introduced the AI certified framework — helping schools navigate the complex landscape of AI with confidence and integrity.

Achieving charitable status in March 2025 affirmed our commitment to public good, inclusion and educational equity. It recognised not only the urgency of our mission, but the trust placed in us to lead it responsibly.

Our progress this year has only been possible because of the dedication of our growing team, the wisdom of our collaborators and the openness of educators across the country who are embracing change for the benefit of their pupils.

There is still much to do — from strengthening our international partnerships to building a robust evidence base for AI in schools — but our foundations are now firm, our vision clear and our resolve stronger than ever.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are shaping the future of education.

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Our trustees

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About AI in Education

Our mission & vision

AI in Education is a trusted, sector-led organisation that equips UK schools and colleges to integrate artificial intelligence ethically, effectively and equitably. We bring together school leaders, SEND specialists, technologists, pupils and policymakers to lead the sector, not wait for it to catch up.

Our theory of change

1. Identify the need. Schools and colleges lack confidence, strategy and resource to use AI responsibly.
2. Provide structured support. We offer training, research, tools and an accreditation pathway.
3. Build capacity and evidence. Schools implement AI to improve learning and close attainment gaps.
4. Influence policy. Our practitioner-led insights shape national and international direction.
5. Achieve system-wide impact. Every child, regardless of background, benefits from an AI-ready education.

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Why we must act now

AI is not coming - it's already here, transforming the world of work, reshaping global economies and redefining what young people need to thrive. But while AI's potential is vast, its risks are urgent - especially for our schools.

Right now, only 4% of schools report feeling confident in using AI tools. A staggering 60% have no AI strategy at all. Without immediate, targeted support, this gap will not close - it will widen. The schools with the fewest resources risk being left even further behind. Pupils from disadvantaged communities will be the ones who miss out, not just on AI literacy but on future education pathways and job opportunities that depend on it.

At the same time, the pace of technological change is unrelenting. Teachers are overwhelmed; leaders are uncertain and government - by its own admission - lacks the agility, expertise and on-the-ground knowledge to respond quickly or effectively. This isn't a future problem. It is a present crisis.

AI in Education exists to meet this moment. We provide schools with a coherent, ethical and practical path forward. We help them implement AI in ways that improve learning, close attainment gaps and prepare all pupils - not just the most advantaged - for the economy of tomorrow.

We must act now. This is not about shiny tools or trendy tech - it is about equity, readiness and the future of education.

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The risk of doing nothing is far greater than the risk of moving forward with support, strategy and purpose.

Every delay leaves more children behind.

How we fill this gap

As a trusted, sector-led organisation, AI in Education provides:

- A nationally recognised tiered accreditation framework (AI Certified) to help schools implement coherent, ethical AI strategies
- Professional learning and coaching aligned with pedagogy and DfE policy
- Tools to support schools in under-resourced communities - closing the digital divide, not widening it
- Open-access materials, research and case studies that showcase what responsible, impactful AI in education looks like in practice
- A voice of influence in policy conversations - shaping the national direction on AI in schools

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Our impact at a glance over the last 12 months:

250+ schools (1)

4 podcasts (3)

5600 trained

215 resources

27 events (2)

3 'hands on' events (4)

13 keynotes

Notes:

1. 250+ schools & colleges are working through the AI Certified framework.
2. Our events cover pupil conferences, creativity and AI workshops, bespoke training and input into key DfE initiatives.
3. The Key: Trust Matters - Lessons in Leadership; BETT Global: Edtech Unwrapped - Lessons from Leaders; The Edtech podcast; BET Listens: AI one year on.
4. Our 'hands on' events (hackathons) cover leadership and special needs.

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Programme spotlight: AI Certified Framework

From risk to readiness

The AI in Education Certified Framework is a structured, research-backed certification designed to guide UK schools and colleges in the responsible, strategic and effective use of artificial intelligence in education.

The AiEd Certified Framework is:

- A UK-focused certification developed by educational experts
- Pedagogy-led, not merely technology-driven that prioritises educational impact
- Built around a clear framework and assessment process to support the ethical and effective integration of AI

The framework is structured around five key pillars which are applied across all stakeholder groups: pupils, teaching and support staff and leadership and administrators.

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Pillars & stakeholders

AI Literacy

Policies & ethics

Tools & systems

Digital pedagogy

Collaboration & community

Pupils (Students)

Teaching & Support staff

Leadership & Admin

We understand that schools and colleges will all be at difference stages in their AI adoption. For that reason, we have created three levels of certification with plenty of time for institutions to complete the process. So far over 250 schools and colleges are undergoing the certification process. It is designed for all school types: primary, secondary, FE colleges, independent, special schools and MATs. There is no 'one-size-fits-all' - the framework supports schools at various stages of AI integration with tailored guidance and flexible evidence requirements.

The AiEd Certified Framework is ultimately about empowering schools to use AI not just safely and ethically, but also strategically and confidently - equipping both staff and pupils for the opportunities and challenges of an AI-enhanced future.
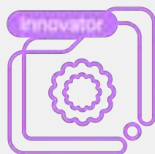
Explorer
Demonstrating commitment and investigation. For schools beginning their AI journey

Practitioner
Evidencing widespread, integrated and effective use. For schools actively implementing AI

Innovator
Showcasing expertise, leadership and contribution to the field. For schools at the forefront

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Case studies: AI in action

Rapid, rich feedback at City of Wolverhampton College

English lecturer Hayley Jarman used ChatGPT to mark GCSE resit essays. By feeding in the awarding-body mark scheme, she generated individual marks and narrative feedback in under two minutes per script, saving 4.5 hours per class. Pupils rewrote work immediately and average grades rose from 4.2 to 4.8. Some learners found the tone 'robotic', prompting Hayley to adjust prompt wording – a reminder that AI still needs a human touch.
(ai-in-education.co.uk)

Harnessing AIR at Ferham Primary School, Rotherham

Harnessing AIR to provide bespoke feedback on pupils' writing.

Ferham Primary serves a highly diverse intake: most classes include newly arrived pupils with no English, a majority of EAL learners and significant SEND needs. Marking writing tasks was taking staff 10-plus minutes per piece, leaving little time for planning intervention or live feedback.

Headteacher Vikki Fenton worked with the AiEd Practitioners Panel to pilot AIR, an AI engine trained on the school's existing writing progression document. Early results showed that:

- Pilot marking sessions cut average feedback time from ~10 min to < 5 min per pupil
- 100 % of key stage 2 pupils received at least two pieces of personalised advice they could act on immediately
- Teachers reported the saved time was reinvested in targeted tutoring, especially for EAL learners

The case shows how primary schools can scale quality feedback without diluting human judgment: AIR handles the repetitive analysis, while teachers decide when and how feedback is delivered and followed up.

Teacher wellbeing at Basingstoke College of Technology

A cross-college AI Ethics Group piloted Google Bard and Teachermatic to automate lesson-plan skeletons and formative quizzes. Teachers reported an average 5.1 hours per week time-saving, which they reinvested in one-to-one coaching and safeguarding conversations. The college now embeds an 'AI pause' in every scheme of work: staff reflect on ethical implications before deployment.
(ai-in-education.co.uk)

Pupil voice: The perspective that counts

The pupil panel has grown this year to include 70 pupils from 12 schools, ranging from ages 10 - 18.

Pupils came together in December for a conference with the theme 'Embracing Change'. The pupils considered the power of AI and how their world will change because of it. Pupils discussed the job landscape and how careers will evolve in their lifetime: they believe that schools should be aware of this and responding to that now. A group of pupils wrote:

'AI needs be integrated into society, and specifically in education, so that it becomes part of what we do and facilitates how we learn. What needs to happen is a harmony between humans and AI and a balance between the two; they must work together.'

In February, members of the panel participated in the debate which closed the AI Fringe at The British Library, hosted by Debate Mate along with Common Sense Media.

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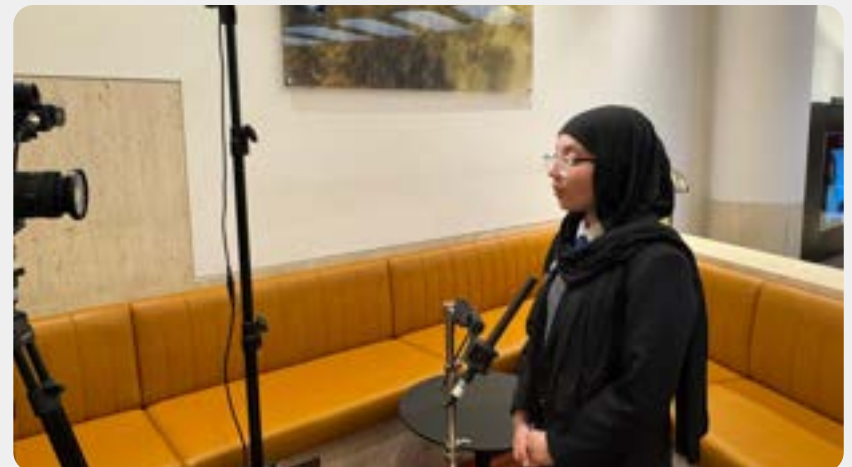
The motion of 'This House believes that AI will be the great equaliser' featured spirited contributions, parries and ripostes from both the debaters themselves and from the floor, raising questions such as 'Is it possible for AI to be an 'equaliser' if humans are feeding it with our own biases?'

In the end, although team opposition took a comfortable victory from the already sympathetic majority in the room, the intervention that received the most cross-cutting support came from a member of the pupil panel: 'Shouldn't the motion itself be thrown out, on the grounds that it is impossible to talk in absolutes about the future of a technology that's developing so fast?'

It is clear that the pupil voice needs to play a prominent role in shaping how AI is used in education.

Progress against our goals

This year marked a period of significant progress and consolidation for AI in Education, as we delivered against the majority of our ten goals and laid strong foundations for long-term impact.

We successfully secured funding until August 2026, giving us the stability to scale our offer and refine our self-financing model. Our newly launched AI-powered website now serves as a growing hub of evidence, research and practitioner insight, while our enhanced marketing and communications strategy has dramatically increased sector visibility and engagement across multiple channels.
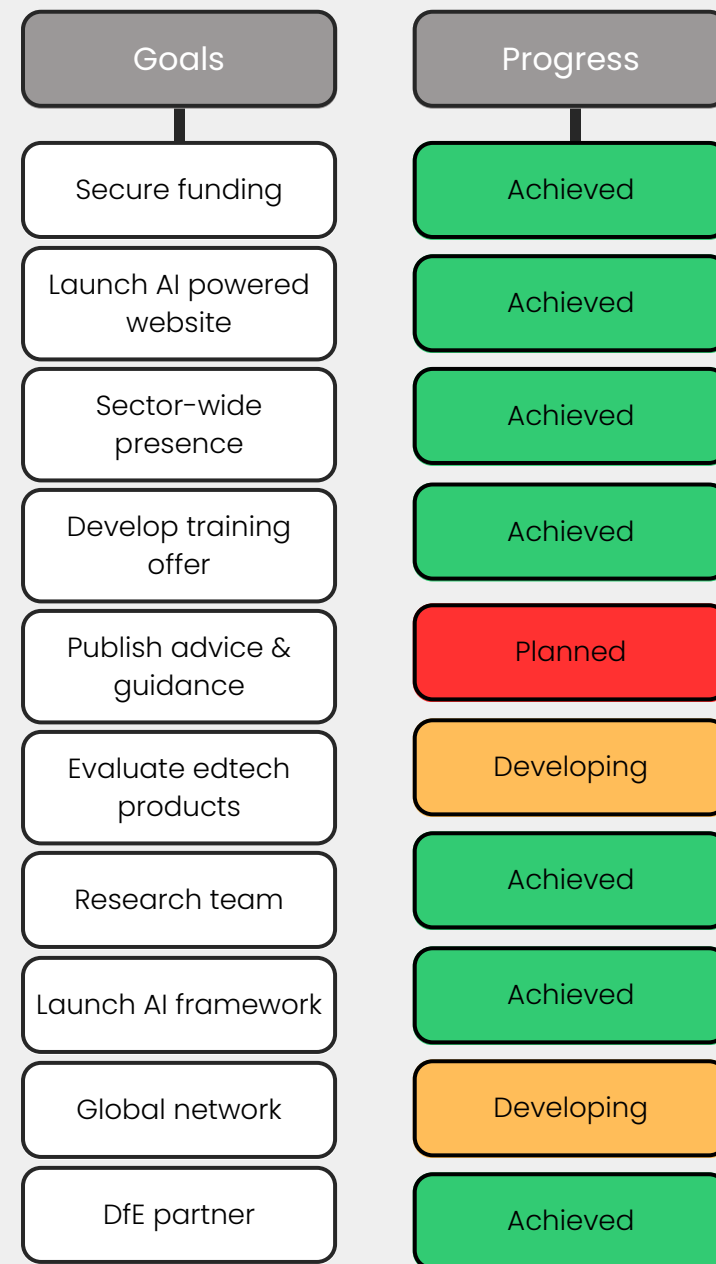
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Our training offer expanded considerably, with a growing library of online and in-person professional development opportunities now supporting educators across all phases and sectors. Simultaneously, we established a dedicated team to gather and evaluate emerging research, ensuring our outputs remain at the cutting edge of evidence-informed practice.

The successful launch of our AI Certified Framework now gives schools and colleges a structured route to recognition for ethical and effective AI integration - a key milestone in raising standards and celebrating leadership in this space.

We are proud that AI in Education is increasingly seen as the go-to organisation for government engagement on AI strategy in schools.

While our work to evaluate edtech products with practitioner commentary and establish an international network is well underway, the development of a suite of professionally badged, standardised resources for educators remains a priority for the year ahead.

Together, these achievements demonstrate growing sector trust, deepening impact and a clear trajectory towards becoming the national and international leader in AI implementation for education.

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Goals	Progress
Secure funding	Achieved
Launch AI powered website	Achieved
Sector-wide presence	Achieved
Develop training offer	Achieved
Publish advice & guidance	Planned
Evaluate edtech products	Developing
Research team	Achieved
Launch AI framework	Achieved
Global network	Developing
DfE partner	Achieved

Challenges & lessons learned

Variable AI-literacy: Baseline teacher confidence was lower than survey data suggested, resulting in patchy uptake. Lesson→ Introduced a diagnostic tool and CPD pathway for schools and colleges.

Safeguarding concerns: 41% of pilot schools requested extra guidance on GDPR compliance and online safety. Lesson→ We will publish a plain-English DPIA toolkit and termly support webinars for school leads.

Governance & charitable status

In March 2025, AI in Education was formally awarded charitable status - a landmark moment that affirms the public benefit at the heart of our work and unlocks new avenues for grant funding and philanthropic investment.

As a charity, AiEd stands for integrity, transparency and system-wide benefit. We exist not to profit from AI, but to empower schools and pupils.

Looking ahead - priorities for 2025-26

1. Publish a suite of professionally badged, standardised resources for educators.
2. Complete the first cohort through the AI Certified framework.
3. Triple the number of schools and colleges undertaking the AI Certified Framework
4. Expand our partnership network to share best practice.
5. Deepen our evidence base through longitudinal impact studies.
6. Continue to amplify pupil voice in national AI-in-education policy discussions.

Thank you

To our funders, partners, educators, pupils and volunteers - thank you. Your support, insight and commitment make our mission possible.

Contact us

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