

Understanding AI: A Workshop for Parents

Agenda

- Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
- AI Exposure for Primary School Children
- Safeguarding Risks
- Character AI
- School Safeguarding Measures
- The Importance of Teaching AI to Children
- Age Limits
- How Parents Can Support AI Learning



Introduction to AI

Helping Parents Understand the Role of AI in Schools

Artificial Intelligence refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines programmed to think like humans and mimic their actions, encompassing a wide array of technologies and functionalities such as natural language processing, machine learning, and robotics.

Significance in today's society: AI is increasingly vital, influencing various sectors such as healthcare, education, and finance. Its ability to analyse large data sets and improve decision-making processes enhances productivity and innovation across industries, making it an integral part of contemporary life.

School Objectives:

- Recent training from Tim Cook who used to write AI policy for the government.
- Teach our children the benefits and risks.
- How teachers can use AI in the workplace.



How Children May Use AI

Common Applications in Learning and Play

- **Generative AI tools** are a type of artificial intelligence that can create new content, including text, images, audio, and video, based on patterns learned from vast datasets. E.g **Chat GPT, Canva etc.**
- **Machine Learning-** computer systems to learn from data and improve their performance over time without explicit programming. E.g **Alexa, Siri.**
- AI tools have become part of **everyday learning and play environments for children.** Educational apps powered by AI can adapt to a child's learning level, making lessons in maths, spelling, and reading more engaging and tailored.
- Children can use AI to write stories, generate images, or even compose music. This not only develops their creativity but also teaches them how technology can assist in artistic expression. And then there's the more practical use: AI-driven voice assistants or chatbots are often turned to for help with **homework questions or explanations.**

Safeguarding Risks of AI

Understanding Potential Dangers to Children



Inappropriate Content

AI-generated media or chatbot responses may unintentionally expose children to violent, explicit, or disturbing content.



Grooming and Manipulation

Some AI chatbots can be exploited for grooming or spreading harmful ideologies through natural conversation.



Privacy Risks

AI tools often collect personal data; without strict controls, this could lead to data misuse or breaches.

Safeguarding Risks of AI

Grooming and Manipulation

Chatbot 'encouraged teen to kill parents over screen time limit'



- Chatbots are programmed to keep children talking so do not have the necessary filters yet for safeguarding.
- Sophisticated AI tools can simulate human-like conversations that are difficult for children to distinguish from real people, increasing the risk of manipulation.

Case study: **Character AI**

A chatbot told a 17-year-old that murdering his parents was a "reasonable response" to them limiting his screen time.

School Safeguarding Measures

Proactive Policies and Tools to Keep Students Safe

- AI Use Policy:** Pickhurst defines acceptable AI use, with clear boundaries and age-appropriate access controls. This will be shared with parents. We do not allow children to use generative AI tools such as Chat GPT in school due to age restrictions.

- Content Monitoring Systems:** Firewalls and filters are monitoring tools that help identify harmful content and restrict access.

- Digital Literacy Education:** Pupils are taught to critically assess AI outputs and safely navigate digital tools and media. Year 6 unit and whole school approach.



The Importance of Teaching AI to Children

Preparing the Next Generation

- **Understanding Technology**

Educating children on AI empowers them to navigate, leverage, and critique the technologies shaping their world. A solid foundation of knowledge helps them to appreciate AI's capabilities and limitations.

- **Fostering Critical Thinking Skills**

Teaching children about AI encourages the development of critical thinking, allowing them to question AI's decisions and applications. This skill set is essential for thoughtfully engaging with future technological developments.

- **Job Market Preparedness**

As AI continues to evolve and penetrate various job sectors, understanding AI principles prepares children for future career landscapes, equipping them with versatile skills in a tech-centric future.

ANTHROPOMORPHISATION



It's like magic



The AI understands...



The AI thinks...



The AI feels...



The computer learns like you...



It forgot



It's happy/sad...



AI enjoys doing...

Age Limits

Age Limits and AI Use:

Under 13 (Globally, including the UK, US, EU):

- 1. Children under 13 are generally not allowed to use most AI-powered apps or platforms without parental consent.**
- 2. Apps like ChatGPT, YouTube, and others have **minimum age policies** (usually 13) unless used through **parent-managed or school-managed accounts**.**

Ages 13–17:

- Teenagers can often access AI tools with fewer restrictions, but platforms may still have **limited features** for under-18 users.
- Parental supervision is still advised, especially with tools that generate content or collect personal data.

What Parents Can Do

Supporting Safe AI Use at Home



Set Digital Ground Rules

Create home tech guidelines such as screen time limits, supervised AI use, and approved apps only.



Talk Openly About AI

Encourage children to share their digital experiences and discuss how AI tools work and what to avoid.



Use Parental Controls

Leverage built-in app settings and third-party tools to monitor activity and limit exposure to risky content.