

Using AI Ethically and Ensuring Data Safety for Minors

AI is changing the way we approach education, offering tools that can personalise learning experiences, improve teaching processes, and provide valuable insights. However, with these opportunities come significant responsibilities, especially when working with minors. AI's effectiveness relies on the use of data, but improper handling of personal information can jeopardise student privacy and lead to long-term ethical concerns. It is also worth noting that in many cases, there should not be a need to use identifiable data when implementing AI tools, further reducing privacy risks.

When using AI in education, it's essential to find a balance between innovation and responsibility. Ethical considerations must be the focus, ensuring that AI tools are used to enhance learning without compromising students' safety or rights. Safeguarding the personal data of minors is not only a moral obligation but also a legal one under the regulations of GDPR.

We have summarised the practical steps for educators, schools, and organisations to use AI responsibly. From maintaining transparency with students and parents to implementing strong data protection measures, these strategies will help ensure that AI is used ethically and safely in the classroom.

1

Transparency

Explain how AI is being used. Teachers, students, and parents should clearly understand the purpose of AI and its benefits in the classroom.

2

Prioritise Data Privacy

Collect only the data you really need and ensure it's stored securely. Use encryption and access controls to protect students' information.

3

Get Consent

Before using AI tools with minors, seek explicit consent from their parents or guardians, explaining the data usage and safety measures in place.

4

Age-Appropriate

Evaluate AI tools to confirm they align with students' age, curriculum, and learning goals, without exposing them to unnecessary risks.

5

Review Policies

Keep up-to-date with data protection laws like GDPR and update your AI policies to stay compliant and maintain trust.