St Andrew's
C of E Primary School

Growing learners to live in God's world

St Andrew's CofE

Parent Guide to Artificial Intelligence (AI)

A Parent's Guide to AI for Primary-Age Children

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an increasingly common part of our daily lives, from virtual assistants like Alexa and Siri to online learning tools and digital games. As AI continues to develop, it is important for parents to understand its role in their children's education and online experiences. This guide will help you navigate AI in a safe, responsible, and educational way.

What is AI?

AI refers to computer programs that can learn, reason, and solve problems, often mimicking human intelligence. AI is used in:

- Smart assistants (e.g., Siri, Alexa, Google Assistant)
- Online learning platforms (e.g., adaptive maths programs, spelling tools)
- Educational apps (e.g., language learning, creative storytelling)
- Streaming services (e.g., YouTube Kids, Netflix recommendations)
- Chatbots and virtual tutors

How AI is Used in Education

AI can be a valuable tool in education, offering:

- **Personalised Learning** – Adaptive programs adjust to your child's learning pace.
- **Interactive Learning** – AI-powered games and apps make learning fun and engaging.
- **Instant Feedback** – Automated quizzes and reading tools provide immediate responses to help children improve.
- **Support for Different Learning Styles** – AI can help children who need additional learning support, including those with special educational needs.

Online Safety and AI

As with any digital technology, it's important to ensure AI tools are used safely. Here's how you can support your child:

- **Monitor Usage** – Supervise your child's screen time and ensure AI-powered platforms are age-appropriate.
- **Privacy Protection** – Teach children never to share personal details (name, address, school) with AI tools.
- **Parental Controls** – Use built-in safety settings on apps, devices, and browsers to limit content access.
- **Discuss AI Limitations** – Help children understand that AI doesn't always give correct or appropriate answers.
- **Encourage Critical Thinking** – Teach children to question AI-generated content and verify information from reliable sources.

AI and Data Protection

AI systems often collect and use data. It is essential to be aware of how your child's information is handled:

- Schools and educational apps should follow **UK GDPR** guidelines to protect children's data.
- Always check privacy policies before allowing your child to use AI-powered apps.
- Ensure that personal information is not entered into AI tools.

Can AI Replace Teachers?

No, AI is a tool that supports, not replaces, human teaching. Teachers provide emotional support, creativity, and personalised guidance that AI cannot replicate. AI can assist with learning but should always be used alongside real-world teaching and interaction.

Encouraging Safe and Positive AI Use at Home

- **Use AI Together** – Explore AI-powered educational tools and apps with your child.
- **Set Healthy Limits** – Balance screen time with offline activities.
- **Talk About AI** – Explain how AI works in a simple way and encourage curiosity.
- **Promote Creativity** – Use AI in ways that inspire creativity, such as drawing apps or storytelling tools.

Conclusion

AI can be a great educational resource when used responsibly. By understanding how it works and staying informed about online safety, parents can help children benefit from AI while protecting their privacy and well-being. If you have any concerns or questions about AI in your child's education, feel free to speak to their teacher or school.

For further guidance, visit online safety resources such as **Internet Matters, NSPCC, or the UK Safer Internet Centre.**