Guardian’s Guide to AI

Google for Education

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AI is reshaping how we approach work and education. At Google, we’ve been preparing for this for quite some time. We first used AI in 2001 when we launched our spelling correction system in Google Search. Now, AI is in many Google products that billions of people use every day.

In reimagining learning with the power of AI, we’ve applied our insights from building digital tools for the classroom for over a decade. And we’ve designed AI experiences with safety at the core.

Use this guide to understand more about AI in education, data security and privacy protections, and how to prepare your child for an AI-powered future.

What exactly is AI? Generative AI?

AI is a computer system taught to mimic natural intelligence to help us understand and recommend information. AI helps power tools like Google Search and YouTube to suggest relevant content when you search, and it’s used within Google infrastructure to help keep data safer.

Generative AI, or gen AI, is a type of AI that focuses on creating new content, such as text, images, music, and code, all by typing in a simple prompt. Teen students can soon access Gemini, Google’s gen AI product, with added data protection while using their school accounts, provided they meet our minimum age requirements.

Why is AI being integrated into teaching and learning in schools?

AI enables powerful new ways to support educators and learners. In education, AI can be used to do helpful things like make learning experiences more personal, provide immediate feedback, improve accessibility, enhance digital security, give educators precious time back and so much more. As AI becomes more common in schools and the workforce, it’s becoming increasingly important that students learn to be proficient with AI-powered tools.

“Most teens and parents expect that gen AI skills will be an important part of their future.”

Stephen Balkam, Founder and CEO, FOSI

Google Keyword blog
How does Google help keep your child’s data private and secure?

It’s critical for students and teachers to be safe when learning online. We make sure that all of our tools protect personal information while keeping schools in control of their data.

Keeping school communities safer with Google for Education

- Secure by default
  Security protections are built into the foundation of Google for Education. Rigorous testing and 24/7 monitoring helps keep your child’s data secure. AI-powered security safeguards automatically detect and block threats. Gen AI tools are built to be secure, with access controlled by admins.

- Private by design
  Google strictly upholds responsible data practices, does not build student profiles, and Workspace Core Services do not have ads. As we advance generative AI, we strictly uphold responsible data practices. No Google Workspace for Education data is shared or used to improve or train AI models.

- Schools are in control
  Admins are in control with all-in-one tools that limit student access to features and protect against security breaches. We aim to be transparent about how our products work, and provide easy-to-apply privacy and security settings to manage when and where data can be accessed.

- Trustworthy content and information
  Google supports building digital responsibility and internet safety with no-cost training and resources. As AI becomes more capable, Google continues to invest in advanced safeguards so that our AI products deliver trustworthy content. We work with child safety and development experts to design age-appropriate content safety policies, including for the models powering Gemini.

Here are some important things to remember about your child’s security and privacy protections with Google:

School-issued Google accounts (created by schools for students)
- Accounts are governed by the Workspace for Education Privacy Notice and Terms of Service – meaning there is no advertising in Google Workspace for Education Core Services, like Gmail, Docs, Slides, and Classroom
- School administrators can enable and disable individual services, including other Google services that aren’t part of Workspace, like Search, Maps, Gemini, and Play
- Gemini, Google’s AI-powered assistant, will be off by default for teen students until admins choose to turn it on. Users have additional data protections in Gemini when signed in to their school accounts, meaning data from their chats is not used to train AI models.
- ChromeOS gen AI features have Google Admin console controls and are automatically disabled for users under 18 years of age

Personal Google accounts (created by users and/or guardians)
- Accounts are governed by Google’s Consumer Privacy Policy and Terms of Service – meaning there is advertising in Google Workspace services, and users can choose to enable personalized advertising
- Parents and guardians can monitor their child’s personal account using Family Link to set screen time limits, manage privacy settings, and more

Where can I learn more and access additional resources?

- Uplevel your learning with gen AI
- 5 must-knows about gen AI
- Building responsible AI
- Google AI for Education
- Teach AI guidance toolkit
- Google gen AI data protections
Google’s approach to AI in schools

We believe AI is going to help school communities unlock potential in ways we can’t even imagine yet. As AI evolves, we’re committed to incorporating AI into education responsibly. This means that we’re building gen AI experiences grounded in educational research, and we carefully evaluate how and when to bring the best of Google’s AI technology to education. We also ensure that our AI-powered tools for education meet the same rigorous standards applied to all Google Workspace for Education tools.

Developing AI responsibly

Guided by learning science principles and academic principles, our AI technology aims to empower, assist, and inspire educators – never to replace them.

Keeping teachers in the loop

Our gen AI tools for education are built with input from educators and learning experts. For example, the AI track of our pilot program lets teachers test and provide feedback on new AI-powered features.

How is AI in Google for Education helping students and teachers?

AI works behind the scenes to provide tailored support to students, complementing the teacher’s role to transform the way students learn and teachers teach.

Students

Imagine a learning environment uniquely tailored to your child’s needs, so class is more engaging, interactive, and accessible for them.

More personal learning

With the AI-powered tool, practice sets in Google Classroom, students can:
- Learn at their own pace
- Get real-time feedback and in-the-moment hints when they’re stuck

Deeper accessibility

AI-powered features enable inclusive learning by assisting students with:
- Display and vision
- Motor and dexterity
- Cognitive and spoken feedback
- Audio and captions

Learn more in Google’s Guide to AI in Education

Teachers

As students recover from major learning losses since 2020, gen AI tools like Gemini and Chromebook Plus devices help educators do more, personalize learning, and understand where students need help to intervene faster.

Tailor learning experiences

Practice sets, Gemini, and other AI-powered Google for Education tools empower teachers to:
- Get faster insights into student comprehension
- Provide more individual support for each student
- Create learning experiences tailored to students’ needs and interests

Create lessons for learners of all types

AI-powered features built into Chromebook Plus devices help educators:
- Record, edit, and share video lessons
- Create audio content with a built-in voice recorder
- Make engaging GIFs for more memorable demos or explanations
Google’s approach to AI at home

Outside of school, parents and guardians are in charge of their children’s screen time and access to technology – and that now includes generative AI. Here are some ways we think about building our products to help protect, respect, and empower kids and families at home.

PROTECT
We collaborate with child safety and development experts to design age-appropriate content safety policies, including the models powering Gemini. We also provide tools to validate information and provide documentation on data use for transparency.

RESPECT
We provide educational materials tailored to teens that help teach foundational AI concepts. These educational resources are based on research and are created in partnership with experts.

EMPOWER
Teens have a unique onboarding experience for Gemini to help educate them on AI’s capabilities and limitations. Gemini also provides teen-friendly prompts to help under-18 users get started with age-appropriate queries.

Safely preparing teens for an AI-first future

#1 Remember AI is technology, not human.
AI is a machine learning model. It can’t think for itself, or feel emotions – it’s just great at picking up patterns, known as training. Since AI is not a human, it can’t and shouldn’t make decisions for you or replace important people in your life.

#2 Let AI empower, not replace, your talents.
AI can help you kickstart the creative process, but it’s not there to do the work for you – that’s your role as the creator. For example, you might use AI to help brainstorm 3 different intros to a video series you’re recording, before writing the full script yourself.

#3 Critically evaluate responses.
Since generative AI is a work in progress, it can make mistakes – and may even make things up, something known as hallucination. Always check information that’s presented as fact. When in doubt, double-check it with Google Search.

#4 If something feels off, investigate further.
Like every useful technology, there may be people who try to take advantage of AI to deceive or defraud others. For example, they may generate misinformation or fake media, like photos and videos that seem real. Look at the content’s sources and consider the intent of who published it – if something seems unusual, take caution.

#5 Be mindful of private information.
Avoid entering personally identifiable information, such as your social security number, into gen AI tools. While Gemini has advanced safeguards in place for students signed in with their school accounts, many other tools may use data from your inputs. When in doubt, consider whether you would share this information publicly.

Where can I learn more about AI for kids at home?

- Training: AI in daily life
- Course: Digital Citizenship
- Guardian’s Guide to Privacy and Security
- Google Families
- Be Internet Awesome
- Gemini Help Center

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