![Firebird Data Protection Consultancy logo]

Education Sector

GDPR NEWSLETTER

GenAI in Education

The Department for Education has published new guidance and training on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education. It's essential reading for every school and college leader before implementing AI.

Whether your setting is already using Generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, CoPilot or Gemini, or just dipping a toe in the water, the message is clear:

Artificial Intelligence is here to stay, but it must be used safely, ethically and responsibly.

Read more on our website

firebirdltd.co.uk/insights

Five key takeaways

1. Embrace AI but do so with guardrails

Establish comprehensive AI policies and clear standards that define when and how AI tools will be used and who is authorised to use them.

2. Protect children and young people

When using AI tools you must comply with the DfE's Keeping Children Safe in Education and Teaching Online Safety in Schools.

Key areas to address include:

Filtering and monitoring: Block tools that could expose pupils and students to harmful, violent or sexual content.

Supervision: AI tools can generate biased, misleading or inappropriate outputs, therefore students should not use them without supervision and clear boundaries.

Educate first: Embed AI literacy into your digital curriculum. Help learners understand how AI works, where it can fall short and how to use it critically, ethically and safely.

3. Handle personal data lawfully

Using personal data in AI tools must be handled with extreme care to avoid breaching the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018:

- Always consult your Data Protection Officer

- Only use AI tools that are approved and meet the standards set out in the DfE's Generative AI Product Safety Expectations

- Complete DPIAs to assess risks, identify safeguards and ensure transparency.

- Opt-out from AI tools using your data to train their model.

4. Respect intellectual property rights

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protect original work, including that of students, teachers and third parities. Stay compliant by:

- Obtaining permission before uploading work into AI tools (parental permission required for U18's).

- Checking you have an appropriate license before you upload any copyrighted materials into an AI tool such as model policies and teaching materials.

5. Update your policies and provide training

Before introducing AI tools into your setting:

- Review and update your safeguarding, behaviour and acceptable use policies to reflect the AI risks and responsibilities.
- Provide clear training for staff, pupils and students on how to use AI tools safely, ethically and responsibly.
- Set clear boundaries and expectations.

Coming soon!

Meet 'Phoenix'
Firebird's 'AI Safe' mascot!

Firebird's New
AI Essential Toolkit

This essential Toolkit includes:

- Model AI policy and Acceptable Use Agreements
- DPIAs and AI assessments for key GENAI tools
- Intellectual Property Rights checklist
- Awareness posters
- AI guidance
- Training

....and more!

From only £399 (ex VAT)

Pre-order your AI Toolkit:
info@firebirdltd.co.uk

Available September 2025

Email us: dpo@firebirdltd.co.uk

Data Use and Access Act 2025

The UK's new Data Use and Access Act 2025 (<u>DUAA</u>) has just received Royal Assent, and while it is not a complete rewrite of the data protection and privacy laws, there are some important changes that schools and colleges need to know:

What's new for schools?

Subject Access Requests

You can now 'stop the clock' on a Subject Access Request (SAR) if you need clarification from the individual about what they are asking for.

The Act also reinforces that you only need to carry out **reasonable** and **proportionate searches**, especially useful when someone asks for "*all emails*".

Complaints process

You are now required to help data subjects make a complaint (ideally by providing an **online complaint form**) if they think the school/college have breached the UK GDPR or the DUAA when using their data.

When someone raises a complaint, you must **acknowledge it within 30 days** and respond without '**undue delay**'.

You should also **update your complaints policy** to make specific provision for data protection complaints and ensure staff know how to handle them correctly.

New lawful basis

A new lawful basis called **'Recognised Legitimate Interests'** has been introduced, removing the need for a Legitimate Interest Assessment in certain scenarios.

Whilst most schools will still rely on 'Public Task' for its day-to-day activities, this new lawful basis could be relied on when sharing information with the police and other **law enforcement agencies.**

PTFA fundraising and marketing

New changes now allow PTFAs with charitable status to send fundraising and other **marketing emails** to individuals who have previously shown an interest in the PTFA's work, without needing to get specific opt-in consent beforehand (you must still provide an 'unsubscribe' link).

Firebird's GDPR Toolkit
September 2025

Contains all the updates you need (included in our DPO service package)

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@firebird.dp) for weekly tips!!

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AI Essential Toolkit for Education

Is your school ready for AI?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping how schools teach, plan and manage everyday tasks. From students experimenting with ChatGPT to staff using AI for lessons and admin - its impact is growing fast!

Schools need clear policies, procedures and training to ensure AI is used safely and responsibly. **Here's how Firebird can help:**

AI Policy and Acceptable Use

Model AI Policy and Acceptable Use Agreement templates for staff, pupils and students, setting out their responsibilities when using AI in school or college.

Managing AI Risks & Consent

Practical guidance on how to manage generative AI risks, with easy to follow guides, consent templates, privacy notice updates and and checklists.

Training and Awareness

Easy to understand staff training videos on on how AI works, its limitations and risks and standards for safe practice; AI awareness posters for students/pupils.

DPIAs and Due Diligence

Pre-completed risk assessments (DPIAs) for ChatGPT, CoPilot and Gemini; AI tool compliance checklists to help you assess tools against the DfE's standards & UK GDPR.

Only £399 (ex VAT)

Firebirdltd.co.uk | info@firebirdltd.co.uk

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