



# **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy**

## **February 2026**

<b>Contents:</b>	<b>Page no:</b>
Important contacts	3
Our school, culture, ethos and values	4
1. Aims	5
2. Legislation and Guidance	5
3. Roles and Responsibilities	6
4. Eliminating Discrimination	7
5. Educating pupils about AI	8
6. Formal assessments	9
7. Staff training	9
8. Breach of policy	10
9. Links to other policies	10

## Important Contacts

ROLE/ORGANISATION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Sean Di Sora	<a href="mailto:Sean.disora@lintonschool.co.uk">Sean.disora@lintonschool.co.uk</a> 01772 957062 07840 803896
Deputy Head and DDSL	Andy Cavill	<a href="mailto:andy.cavill@lintonschool.co.uk">andy.cavill@lintonschool.co.uk</a> 01772 957062 07501924418
Deputy DSL	Steph White	<a href="mailto:Steph.white@lintonschool.co.uk">Steph.white@lintonschool.co.uk</a> 01772 957062 07958 717282
Director – Education Services	Andrew Sutherland	<a href="mailto:Andrew.Sutherland@caretech-uk.com">Andrew.Sutherland@caretech-uk.com</a> 07701314378
Regional Lead Education	Richard George	<a href="mailto:Richard.george@cambiangroup.com">Richard.george@cambiangroup.com</a>
Quality Improvement Lead	Tonia Lewis	<a href="mailto:Tonia.Lewis@cambiangroup.com">Tonia.Lewis@cambiangroup.com</a> 07860188746
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for Lancashire County Council	Tim Booth	<a href="mailto:Tim.booth@lancashire.gov.uk">Tim.booth@lancashire.gov.uk</a> 01772 536694
Lancashire County Council – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)		0300 123 6720 0300 123 6722 (out of office hours)
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for Blackpool Council	Amanda Quirke	<a href="mailto:Amanda.quirke@blackpool.gov.uk">Amanda.quirke@blackpool.gov.uk</a> 01253 477541
Blackpool Council – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)		01253 477299
Channel helpline		020 7340 7264
Prevent / Channel Referrals		<a href="mailto:concern@lancashire.pnn.police.uk">concern@lancashire.pnn.police.uk</a>

## **Our School**

Linton School is an independent special school for young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties for both boys and girls aged 8-18 years old. The school is registered for up to 12 learners and consists of 4 small classes to provide a nurturing environment to develop and progress throughout their learning journey. We are a trauma informed school that is able to support children and teenagers who suffer with trauma or mental health problems and whose troubled behaviour acts as a barrier to learning. Located in rural Preston we therefore benefit from some amazing outdoor space where we develop our outdoor, equestrian and horticulture skills. All the staff at Linton School are committed to creating a setting which not only focuses on academic success, but also provides our learners opportunities to develop their social, communication and independent skills.

### **Culture and Ethos**

We are committed to providing a nurturing, safe and ambitious learning environment that supports every young person to achieve lifelong skills through a diverse learner centred curriculum.

Respectful and supportive relationships are at the heart of all we do; we value every member of the school community equally. Through bespoke curriculums tailored towards each individual pupil's needs, experiences, interests and strengths we foster a love for learning and support our young people to achieve their full potential. As an educational setting our main aim is to prepare our pupils to make a positive contribution towards society by giving our students the skills they need to be successful, resilient and inspirational young adults. Linton schools purpose is to improve the quality of life for our young people both now, and in the future, 'building our futures together'.

### **The Vision**

Linton School provides a safe, nurturing learning environment to provide skills for lifelong opportunities, which gives the young people an ambitious outlook towards their future. The vision drives everything we do and will be achieved through:

Outdoor enrichment activities to promote life skills through play, nurture and teamwork.

- Promoting independence, patience and listening skills through Equestrian lessons.
- Multi-disciplinary links from both internal and external companies to provide a bespoke, broad and balanced curriculum that develops the education of our pupils.
- Empowering each learner to achieve their personal goals and develop a lifelong love of learning.
- A positive and ambitious school environment that promotes learning for all.
- Offering a broad range of learning experiences within the curriculum that values academic attainment as well as developing social skills, experiences and resilience.

**More information about the school can be found in the school Prospectus.**

# Linton School AI Statement

## 1. Aims

At Linton School we understand the valuable potential that artificial intelligence (AI), including generative AI, holds for schools. For example, it can be used to enhance pedagogical methods, customise learning experiences and progress educational innovation.

We are also aware of the risks posed by AI, including data protection breaches, copyright issues, ethical complications, safeguarding and compliance with wider legal obligations.

Therefore, the aim of this policy is to establish guidelines for the ethical, secure and responsible use of AI technologies across our whole school community.

This policy covers the use of AI tools by school staff, governors and pupils. This includes generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Gemini (please note, this list is not exhaustive).

This policy aims to:

- Support the use of AI to enhance teaching and learning
- Support staff to explore AI solutions to improve efficiency and reduce workload
- Prepare staff, governors and pupils for a future in which AI technology will be an integral part
- Promote equity in education by using AI to address learning gaps and provide personalised support
- Ensure that AI technologies are used ethically and responsibly by all staff, governors and pupils
- Protect the privacy and personal data of staff, pupils and wider school community in compliance with the UK GDPR

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy reflects good practice guidelines/recommendations in the following publications:

- [AI regulation white paper](#), published by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, and the Office for Artificial Intelligence
- [Generative artificial intelligence \(AI\) and data protection in schools](#), published by the Department for Education (DfE)

This policy also meets the requirements of the:

- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) – the EU GDPR was incorporated into UK legislation, with some amendments, by [The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendments etc\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018 \(DPA 2018\)](#)

### 3. Roles and responsibilities

The Regional Lead will:

- Delegate responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the objectives to the Head Teacher in compliance with safeguarding protocol.

The Head Teacher will:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of the use of AI technology amongst staff and pupils
- Monitor success in achieving the objectives and report back to the Regional Lead
- Ensure that the AI information and objectives as set out in this statement are published and communicated throughout the school, including to staff, pupils, carers and parents, and that they are reviewed and updated at least once every two years

All school staff are expected to have access to, understand and to work to achieve the objectives as set out in the policy

We follow the 5 principles set out in the [AI regulation white paper](#).

REGULATORY PRINCIPLE	WE WILL ...
Safety, security and robustness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure that AI solutions are secure and safe for users and protect users' data</li><li>• Ensure we can identify and rectify bias or error</li><li>• Anticipate threats such as hacking</li></ul>
Appropriate transparency and explainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be transparent about our use of AI, and make sure we understand the suggestions it makes</li></ul>
Fairness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only use AI solutions that are ethically appropriate, equitable and free from prejudice – in particular, we will fully consider any bias relating to small groups and protected characteristics before using AI, monitor bias closely and correct problems where appropriate</li></ul>
Accountability and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure that the governing board and staff have clear roles and responsibilities in relation to the monitoring, evaluation, maintenance and use of AI</li></ul>
Contestability and redress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make sure that staff are empowered to correct and overrule AI suggestions – decisions should be made by the user of AI, not the technology</li><li>• Allow and respond appropriately to concerns and complaints where AI may have caused error resulting in adverse consequences or unfair treatment</li></ul>

## **Data Protection Officer**

Our **DPO** is contactable via [data.protection@caretech-uk.com](mailto:data.protection@caretech-uk.com) / 01707 601800

The company has also appointed a **Senior Information Risk Officer, Amanda Sherlock** ([amanda.sherlock@caretech-uk.com](mailto:amanda.sherlock@caretech-uk.com)). Report any suspicious activity to [cyber.incident@caretech-uk.com](mailto:cyber.incident@caretech-uk.com)

## **Staff**

As part of our aim to reduce staff workload while improving outcomes for our pupils, we encourage staff to explore opportunities to meet these objectives through the use of approved AI tools. Any use of AI must follow the guidelines set out in this policy.

To protect data when using generative AI tools, staff must:

- Use only approved AI tools (approved by CareTech)
- Seek advice from the data protection officer, as appropriate
- Report safeguarding concerns to the DSL in line with our school's child protection and safeguarding policy
- Ensure there is no identifiable information included in what they put into open generative AI tools
- Acknowledge or reference the use of generative AI in their work
- Fact-check results to make sure the information is accurate

All staff play a role in ensuring that pupils understand the potential benefits and risks of using AI in their learning. All of our staff have a responsibility to guide pupils in critically evaluating AI-generated information and understanding its limitations.

## **4. Eliminating discrimination**

We are aware that AI tools can perpetuate existing biases, particularly towards protected characteristics including sex, race and disability. For this reason, critical thought must be applied to all outputs of authorised AI applications. This means fact and sense-checking the output.

We will ensure we can identify and rectify bias or error by training staff in this area.

We also regularly review our use of AI to identify and correct any biases that may arise.

If parents/carers or pupils have any concerns or complaints about potential unfair treatment or other negative outcomes as a consequence of AI use, these will be dealt with through our usual complaints procedure (please see the complaints policy for raising concerns/complaints).

We encourage staff and governors to speak to the headteacher in the first instance if they have any concerns about a proposed use of AI, or the use of AI that may have resulted in errors that lead to adverse consequences or unfair treatment.

Safeguarding concerns arising from the use of generative AI must be reported immediately to the DSL in accordance with our school's child protection and safeguarding policy.

We will always:

- Use generative AI tools ethically and responsibly
- Remember the principles set out in our school's equality policy when using generative AI tools
- Consider whether the tool has real-time internet access, or access to information up to a certain point in time, as this may impact the accuracy of the output
- Fact and sense-check the output before relying on it

Staff and governors must not:

- Generate content to impersonate, bully or harass another person
- Generate explicit or offensive content
- Input offensive, discriminatory or inappropriate content as a prompt

## 5. Educating pupils about AI

Here at Linton School we acknowledge that pupils benefit from a knowledge-rich curriculum that allows them to become well-informed users of technology and understand its impact on society. Strong foundational knowledge will ensure that pupils develop the right skills to make the best use of generative AI.

Within ICT lessons and other subjects within the curriculum, the pupils learn about the use of AI and how it can benefit, and in some cases hinder the learner. Teachers support the pupils in understanding the uses of AI technology and how it is shaping the future in different ways, both positively and negatively.

- Creating and using digital content safely and responsibly
- The limitations, reliability and potential bias of generative AI
- How information on the internet is organised and ranked
- Online safety to protect against harmful or misleading content

We recognise that AI has many uses to help pupils learn.

Pupils may use AI tools:

- As a research tool to help them find out about new topics and ideas
- When specifically studying and discussing AI in schoolwork, for example in IT lessons or art homework about AI-generated images

All AI-generated content must be properly attributed and appropriate for the pupils' age and educational needs.

AI may also lend itself to cheating and plagiarism. To mitigate this, pupils may not use AI tools:

- During assessments, including internal and external assessments, and coursework
- To write their homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text is presented as their own work

- To complete their homework, where AI is used to answer questions set and is presented as their own work (for example, maths calculations)
- During exams

This list of AI misuse is not exhaustive.

Where AI tools have been used as a source of information, pupils should reference their use of AI. The reference must show the name of the AI source and the date the content was generated.

We consider any unattributed use of AI-generated text or imagery to be plagiarism and will follow our plagiarism procedures as set out in the schools policies.

Pupils must consider what is ethical and appropriate in their use of AI and must not:

- Generate content to impersonate, bully or harass another person
- Generate or share explicit or offensive content, including, but not limited to, generating inappropriate or sexualised images of pupils
- Input offensive, discriminatory or inappropriate content as a prompt

## 6. Formal assessments

We will continue to take reasonable steps where applicable to prevent malpractice involving the use of generative AI in assessments. See our exams / assessment policy for more details.

We will follow the latest guidance published by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) on [AI use in assessments](#).

## 7. Staff training

Staff will be kept up to date with developments in AI, and they will be able to develop and improve their practice on a regular basis through CPD opportunities and staff training when appropriate.

- How you ensure good understanding of AI
- Covering AI use in staff training on safe internet use and online safeguarding
- Who will be responsible for ensuring staff have access to continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities on AI
- How the school will stay abreast of good practice and what mechanisms you have in place for sharing it

## **8. Breach of policy**

Breach of this policy by staff will be dealt with in line with our staff code of conduct.

Where disciplinary action is appropriate, it may be taken whether the breach occurs:

- During or outside of working hours
- On an individual's own device or a school device
- At home, at school or from a remote working location

Staff members will be required to co-operate with any investigation into a suspected breach of this policy. This may involve providing us with access to:

- The generative AI application in question (whether or not it is one authorised by the school)
- Any relevant passwords or login details

You must report any breach of this policy, either by you or by another member of staff, to the headteacher immediately.

## **9. Links to other policies**

This policy is linked to the:

- Data protection policy
- Safeguarding/child protection policy
- Assessment policy
- Exams policy
- Homework policy
- Behaviour policy
- Staff code of conduct
- Marking and feedback policy
- ICT acceptable use policy
- Online safety policy
- Equality policy