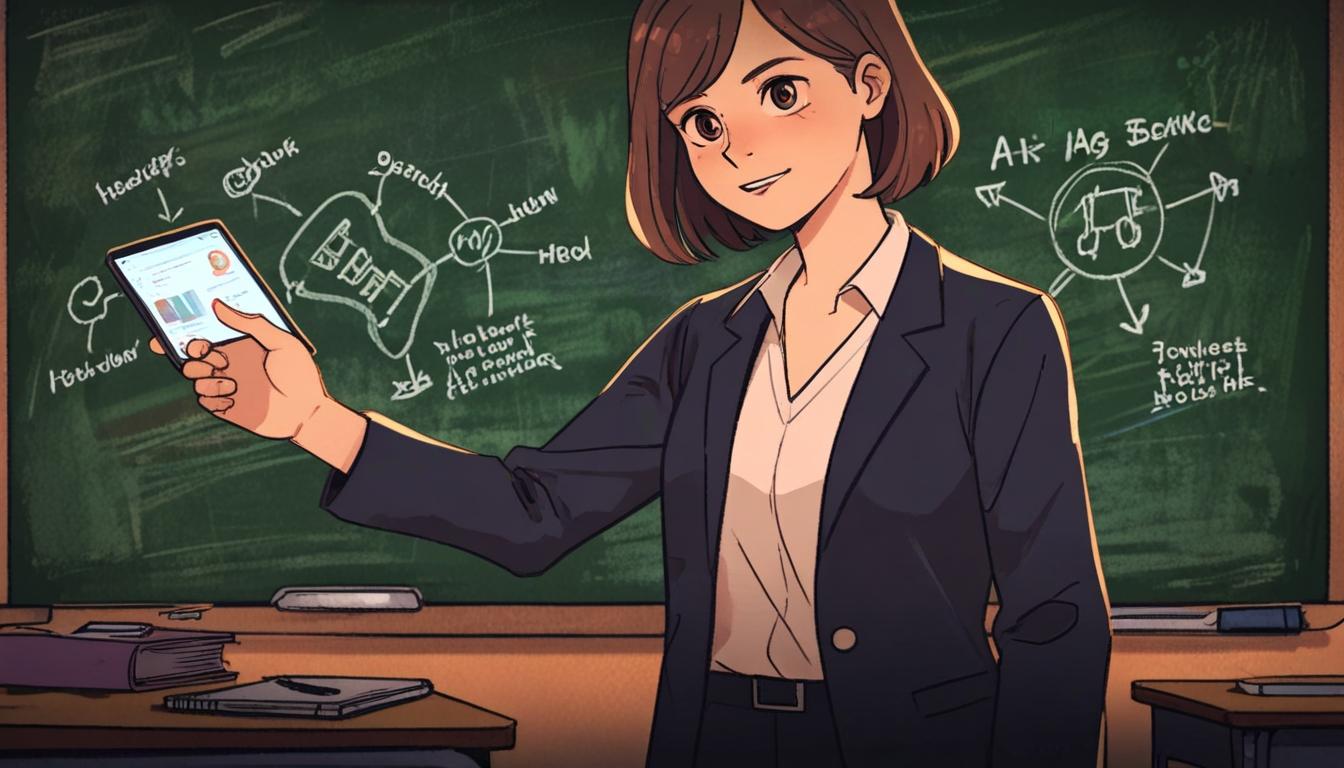
# British schools face backlash over £27,000 AI homework software amid fears of dehumanised learning



Schools across Britain are increasingly investing in artificial intelligence (AI) software aimed at streamlining homework management and behaviour tracking among students, as reported by the Daily Mail. The software in question, Team Satchel, has been described as a tool that can liberate teachers from the demands of administrative tasks, allowing them to focus more on classroom teaching.

Team Satchel is marketed as a government-approved solution, claiming to be utilised by approximately one-third of secondary schools in the UK. Some institutions are reportedly spending up to £27,000 for a three-year licensing agreement for the system. The software enables educators to assign homework, allocate behaviour points—both positive and negative—and facilitate a virtual leaderboard for class performance. According to the software's website, this instant feedback on behaviour is designed to support positive reinforcement.

Naimish Gohil, the founder of Team Satchel, expressed his aspirations for the software during a podcast, stating a desire for his company to become "synonymous with education." As AI integration in classrooms grows, recent research from the National Literacy Trust noted that two in five teachers had employed generative AI in 2024 for lesson preparation.

However, the software has attracted significant criticism from various educational advocates and organisations. Chris McGovern, chair of the Campaign for Real Education, voiced concerns that reliance on AI systems could result in employment complacency among educators, asserting that such technology would lead to "algorithm-based" teaching, signalling the decline of "inspirational" education. He emphasised that the growing trend poses a risk of delivering a "dehumanised experience of learning for pupils."

The concern for students' mental well-being is echoed by advocacy groups. Molly Kingsley, co-founder of the parenting group UsForThem, argued that while the technology claims to ease teachers' workloads, it could detract from critical thinking and the necessary teacher-student relationship. She noted that many parents would prefer traditional methods—like setting homework with pen and paper—over digital solutions that may erode personal engagement in the classroom.

Britain's education landscape is further influenced by government funding initiatives aimed at enhancing internet connectivity in schools. In March, the Labour government allocated £45 million to improve digital resources in educational institutions. While some view AI as a tool for efficiency, others, including the GMB union, have raised alarms about its potential dehumanising impact on education. In a letter to Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson, the union highlighted concerns over issues like cheating, data security, and the diminishing of social interactions due to increased reliance on technology.

Prominent headteacher Katharine Birbalsingh, known as Britain's "strictest headteacher," has also spoken against the use of AI in teaching. She warned that such technology could dilute educational quality, asserting that traditional methods of learning—such as writing and reading—are vital for literacy and comprehension. Her view underscores a broader debate about the appropriateness of integrating technology into the educational framework.

As the discussion regarding AI in education evolves, the Department for Education has described AI's potential to reduce teachers' burdens, asserting that it allows for more time spent on face-to-face teaching. Nonetheless, scepticism remains among educators and parents alike regarding the long-term implications of such technological advancements in classrooms.

MailOnline has reached out to Team Satchel for their comments on the criticisms raised.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.teamsatchel.com/index.html> - This is the official website of Team Satchel, detailing their AI-driven platform, Satchel One, which integrates various educational tools including homework management and behavior tracking.
2. <https://www.teamsatchel.com/sidekick.html> - This page introduces Sidekick, an AI tool within Satchel One designed to assist teachers in creating homework, quizzes, spelling tests, and lesson plans, thereby reducing administrative workload.
3. <https://www.teamsatchel.com/newsroom-sidekick-launch> - This announcement highlights the launch of Sidekick, emphasizing its role in enhancing teacher productivity by automating tasks like homework creation and lesson planning.
4. <https://www.teamsatchel.com/schools/secondary.html> - This section lists secondary schools across the UK that utilize Satchel One, indicating its widespread adoption in the educational sector.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/d591fb1a-9f6c-4345-b5fc-781e091ae3f8> - This article discusses the significant increase in UK university students using AI for academic work, raising concerns about its impact on critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/26ff910a-d19e-444b-9e4c-f06e6d546db3> - This piece addresses the dual role of AI in education, highlighting both its potential to enhance learning and the risks of misuse, such as cheating and over-reliance.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14655457/school-paying-AI-set-students-homework-fear-lazy-teachers.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data