# UK government pledges £1.1 million to integrate AI in schools and set global safety standards



In a bold declaration during her speech at the Education World Forum in London, Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson outlined the UK’s ambitious plans to lead a transformative shift in educational technology. With a committed funding of £1.1 million, her focus is on incorporating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in schools with the dual objectives of enhancing teacher efficiency and improving student outcomes. Central to her message is the assertion that the effective management of AI is "the most important challenge for global education in a generation."

Phillipson highlighted the potential of AI to alleviate teachers from administrative burdens, enabling them to devote more time to direct teaching. “For children that means more attention, higher standards, better life changes. For teachers – less paperwork, lower stress, fewer drains on their valuable time,” she remarked. This sentiment resonates with broader governmental efforts aimed at tackling significant issues in the education system, including recruitment and retention crises exacerbated by the administrative workload that educators face.

The UK government has embarked on additional initiatives, allocating £1 million to 16 ed-tech companies tasked with developing AI tools for feedback and marking, aimed at further reducing teacher workload. The expectation is that prototypes will be ready by April 2025, with a focus on utilising a comprehensive set of AI data for accuracy and reliability. This strategy is intended not only to streamline processes but also to promote more effective teaching practices.

Moreover, Phillipson indicated that the UK will host an international summit next year to forge a collective agreement on global guidelines for the use of generative AI in classrooms. Currently, schools enjoy autonomy in deciding how to implement such technologies, as long as they adhere to legal obligations. New guidelines prioritise safety, mandating that schools obtain permission before using student work to train AI models. This reflects a growing awareness of the ethical implications surrounding the use of AI in educational settings.

The move is part of a larger framework, known as the 'AI Product Safety Expectations in Education,' created in collaboration with major industry players like Microsoft and Google. This initiative seeks to ensure that AI tools used in classrooms are both effective and safe, reinforcing a commitment to the protection of student data and intellectual property. Bridget Phillipson has also suggested that all new teachers will undergo mandatory training focused on the effective use of assistive technology for students with special educational needs and disabilities.

The education sector is witnessing a push to not only leverage AI for operational efficiency but also to actively consider its role in fostering inclusivity and enhancing learning experiences for all students. By integrating advanced technologies such as AI, the government aims to create a more supportive educational framework that can adapt to diverse learning needs.

Furthermore, the UK government’s efforts extend beyond immediate educational considerations. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced the establishment of the world’s first AI Safety Institute, aimed at promoting a safer use of AI technologies across sectors. This institutional commitment underscores a broader societal recognising of AI’s potential risks and benefits, paired with a strong emphasis on public safety and ethical standards.

As the educational landscape continues to evolve with the inclusion of AI, the implications are profound. With the aim of positioning Britain as a leader in educational technology, these initiatives reflect a paradigm shift in how education systems might operate in the future—one that prioritises improved outcomes for both students and educators alike. The ongoing developments will be closely watched, as success could set a precedent for global educational systems navigating the complexities of integrating technology into teaching and learning environments.

**Reference Map**:

* Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/national/25172582.uk-back-global-rules-ai-schools-says-phillipson/)
* Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/national/25172582.uk-back-global-rules-ai-schools-says-phillipson/), [[5]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-outlines-plans-to-modernise-education-sector)
* Paragraph 3: [[2]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ai-teacher-tools-set-to-break-down-barriers-to-opportunity)
* Paragraph 4: [[3]](https://schoolsweek.co.uk/phillipsons-ai-revolution-what-schools-need-to-know/), [[4]](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/minister-morgans-geis-speech)
* Paragraph 5: [[3]](https://schoolsweek.co.uk/phillipsons-ai-revolution-what-schools-need-to-know/)
* Paragraph 6: [[6]](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/mar/31/bridget-phillipson-eyes-ais-potential-to-free-up-teachers-time)
* Paragraph 7: [[7]](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-speech-on-ai-26-october-2023)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/national/25172582.uk-back-global-rules-ai-schools-says-phillipson/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ai-teacher-tools-set-to-break-down-barriers-to-opportunity> - The UK government has allocated £1 million to 16 ed-tech companies to develop AI tools aimed at assisting teachers with feedback and marking. These tools are designed to reduce teacher workload, allowing educators to focus more on teaching and less on administrative tasks. The initiative is part of a broader effort to integrate AI into the education system, enhancing teaching efficiency and student outcomes. The project is expected to deliver prototype AI tools by April 2025, utilizing a comprehensive AI data store to ensure accuracy and reliability.
3. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/phillipsons-ai-revolution-what-schools-need-to-know/> - Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson has announced plans to modernize the education sector by integrating AI technology. Key initiatives include mandatory training for all new teachers on the effective use of assistive technology to support students with special educational needs and disabilities. Additionally, the Department for Education has introduced the 'AI Product Safety Expectations in Education' framework, developed in collaboration with major tech companies like Microsoft, Google, Adobe, and Amazon Web Services, to ensure AI tools used in classrooms are safe and effective.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/minister-morgans-geis-speech> - Minister Morgan's speech at the Global Education Innovation Summit (GEIS) emphasized the importance of building a shared understanding of AI safety in education. The UK government is committed to protecting students from harmful content and ensuring the security of their personal data and intellectual property. Plans include collaborating with experts, educators, and tech firms to establish minimum safety expectations for AI products in education, aiming to create a market based on efficacy and safety.
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-outlines-plans-to-modernise-education-sector> - Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson has outlined plans to modernize the education sector by harnessing technology, particularly AI, to transform teaching. Announced at The Bett Show in London, the initiative includes integrating AI to reduce teacher workload, thereby addressing recruitment and retention challenges. The government also plans to use data to tackle student absences and improve attendance, with new attendance data summaries available to secondary school trusts and local authorities.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/mar/31/bridget-phillipson-eyes-ais-potential-to-free-up-teachers-time> - Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson is exploring the potential of AI tools to alleviate teachers' administrative burdens, allowing them to focus more on direct teaching. Attending a Department for Education-sponsored hackathon, Phillipson engaged with developers showcasing AI applications that can compile pupil reports, assess writing, and even evaluate vocational skills. The goal is to integrate AI into classrooms to enhance teaching efficiency and address the teacher recruitment crisis by making the profession more attractive.
7. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-speech-on-ai-26-october-2023> - In his speech on AI, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced the establishment of the world's first AI Safety Institute in the UK. The institute aims to advance global knowledge of AI safety, examining and testing new AI models to understand their capabilities and risks. Sunak emphasized the UK's commitment to developing advanced protections for AI, ensuring public safety and peace of mind regarding AI advancements.