



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Background

The protection of our staff and students' private information is paramount when considering Artificial Intelligence. It is essential that discernment about how to use AI-generated content always be guided by ethical principles embedded in Catholic social teaching that promote human dignity, the common good, justice, subsidiarity and solidarity (or human flourishing). Our staff and students are encouraged to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) because it aligns with our commitment to fostering innovation and critical thinking.

Definitions

Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Common Sense Media defines Artificial Intelligence (AI) as “a computer program that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence” (2023). Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be divided into many different types and branches.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) - “a subset of AI that utilizes machine learning models to create new, original content, such as images, text, or music, based on patterns and structures learned from existing data.” - Cornell University

Purpose

Evergreen Catholic Separate School Division is committed to safely and effectively integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in our schools. The division will provide guidelines and support for staff and students to help them improve educational outcomes while providing clarity on academic integrity. The appropriate use of AI by students and staff within our school division is aligned with our assessment and reporting practices. Evergreen Catholic School Division uses AI Scales as a structured framework to guide the ethical, purposeful, and effective use of artificial intelligence in classrooms.

Staff Use of AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) presents opportunities for innovation and advancement in education. Using AI also comes with risks that must be mitigated by staff to protect student privacy, prevent biases and inequities, and embrace human intelligence and empowerment. Staff should align AI use with the following procedures and guidelines provided.

1. When using AI tools staff critically evaluate content produced by AI. Teachers use AI to enhance learning experiences and reduce administrative workload. These tools help personalize tasks for the diverse needs of students.



2. Staff are fully responsible for AI-generated content they use and must verify its accuracy before including it in their work.
3. Staff shall not input personal or sensitive student information into AI tools, including names, photographs, IDs, grades, health data, or any identifying details. Maintaining personal and student confidentiality and security is essential.
4. Staff shall use AI responsibly, maintaining integrity and accountability. If using AI-generated content staff should assess biases, follow ethical principles from Catholic social teaching, promoting human dignity, the common good, and justice.
5. Staff shall demonstrate a commitment to ensuring equitable access to AI technologies and to educating students on the responsible use of emerging technologies like AI.
6. ECSSD does not support the use of AI detection tools. These tools are unreliable and can lead to false accusations.

Student Use of AI

By integrating AI into our educational framework, we prepare our students to navigate and contribute positively to a rapidly evolving technological landscape. “The ethical use of AI in education empowers educators and students to leverage these technologies to augment learning, creativity, and problem-solving capacities.” - Human-Centered AI Guidance for K–12 Schools (2024). Students should align AI use with the following procedures and guidelines provided.

1. By using AI tools and frameworks responsibly, at the teacher’s discretion, students can enhance their learning experience. Students are expected to use their original thought and effort.
2. Students shall use AI tools responsibly, ensuring they do not impersonate others or generate harmful or offensive content.
3. AI should be implemented in ways that promote fairness and inclusion, students should have access to the tools and resources needed to succeed.
4. Students should verify the accuracy of information from AI sources, including search engines.
5. Students will credit and acknowledge the use of AI technology in their work at the guidance of their teachers and administrators.
6. Students should maintain confidentiality and security when using AI tools, avoiding the disclosure of personal or confidential information.



Reference: Section 31, 32, 33, 196, 197 Education Act
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Personal Information Protection Act
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Criminal Code (Canada)
Copyright Act
ATA Code of Professional Conduct