How Brisbane Catholic Education is Using Generative AI

Information for parents and carers

November 2025

Brisbane Catholic Education

teaching · challenging · transforming

How Brisbane Catholic Education is Using Generative AI

What is Generative AI (GenAI)?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is technology that can perform certain tasks that people normally do, like writing, analysing or creating, but much faster and on a larger scale. **Generative AI (GenAI)** goes a step further by *creating* new things such as text, pictures, or videos.

At Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE), Microsoft Copilot is the dedicated **Generative AI solution** for our schools. Integrated into familiar Microsoft 365 apps like Word, PowerPoint, Outlook and Teams, Copilot empowers teachers by streamlining their work and suggesting ideas, summarising text and automating routine tasks.

What is BCE's approach to GenAI?

BCE is committed to ensuring technology supports learning in a **safe and ethical way**.

To further ensure safety and privacy, BCE uses Microsoft Copilot within an enterprise environment that includes strong data protection measures. All student data and information remain securely managed and are never used to train or improve AI models. This means that Copilot does not access, store, or learn from any personal student information, keeping your child's privacy fully protected.

- Students under 13 are **not permitted to access or use** Open Source Commercial LLM Generative AI tools.
- Teachers may demonstrate Generative AI in class to explain how it works and promote responsible **awareness.**
- BCE follows international and national AI ethics guidelines, including the Rome Call for AI Ethics and the Australian Framework for Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Schools
- Our approach protects **student privacy**, supports **wellbeing**, and promotes **critical thinking** about digital tools.
- No personal student information is shared with AI platforms to train their model.

How do BCE teachers use GenAI?

Teachers use Microsoft Copilot to reduce administrative tasks and personalise learning materials, not to replace their professional judgment.

Examples include:

- Planning lessons: generating initial lesson ideas or scaffolds that teachers then adapt for the class.
- Clear communication: drafting updates for families in a way that is **concise and easy to engage with.**
- Better feedback: supporting teachers to **contextualise or adapt** rubrics and draft comments, helping ensure **feedback is timely, personalised and meaningful for students.**
- Reducing admin: streamlining tasks like summarising meeting notes or organising checklists, giving teachers more time to **focus on student learning and wellbeing.**

How is GenAI taught in the classroom?

Students in upper primary school explore GenAI through the **Digital Technologies curriculum**. Lessons focus on:

- Understanding what AI is and how it works
- Discussing its strengths and limitations
- Developing creativity and problem-solving skills **by exploring everyday AI applications** such as predictive text or translation tools and understanding how wording influences digital tools' responses.

Microsoft Learning Accelerators

BCE also uses **Learning** Accelerators; innovative GenAI enabled tools within Microsoft 365 Education. These tools provide instant feedback on skills such as reading, writing, and communication. They go beyond immediate skill development: empowering students to monitor their own progress, set personal learning goals, and reflect on their growth over time. Learning Accelerators also support differentiated instruction, allowing teachers to tailor activities based on individual student needs and strengths.

These tools are teacher-led and help students practice skills safely, *without* sharing personal data or using external AI platforms.

Please note:

- Teachers will model the use of each AI tool and provide guidance before students are directed to engage with it.
- Privacy, critical thinking, and ethical use are prioritised whenever AI tools are introduced to students.
- No personal student information is shared with AI platforms **to train their model.**

Why Open Source Commercial GenAI is not suitable for students under 13 years of age?

Students under 13 should not use open source commercial LLMs like OpenAI, Claude, ChatGPT, DeepSeek etc. for the following reasons:

- **Legal restrictions:** most platforms require users to be 13+ to comply with privacy laws.
- **Privacy risks:** children might unintentionally share personal details.
- **Unreliable or inappropriate content:** the responses from these GenAI platforms can be inaccurate or unsuitable for young audiences.
- **Developmental impact:** over-reliance on AI can limit creativity, persistence in learning, and problem-solving.
- **Digital wellbeing:** supervised and intentional use of technology can help children develop healthy relationships with digital tools, encouraging mindful habits, and fostering a balanced approach to learning. Instead of striving for "perfect" answers, students are supported to appreciate the learning process, embrace mistakes as opportunities to grow, and build resilience in problem-solving.

With adult guidance, however, students can learn *about* AI in ways that encourage curiosity, ethics, and balance.

How can parents and carers assist in preparing students for GenAI?

You play an important role in helping your child build healthy digital habits:

- Talk about it. Ask your child what they've learned about AI at school and discuss how technology can be helpful - but also when it might make mistakes.
- Model good tech use. Show your child how you double-check information online or use technology thoughtfully.
- Encourage curiosity, not dependence. Praise effort and original thinking, not just "quick answers."
- Set boundaries. Keep screen time balanced with outdoor play, reading, and family conversation.
- Stay informed. Read BCE updates and visit trusted education or government websites about AI and digital safety.
- Ask teachers. If you're unsure how AI is used at school, reach out to your child's teacher - they'll be happy to explain.

For more information on BCE's approach to digital learning and AI use, please visit your school's website or contact the school office.


Brisbane
Catholic
Education
teaching • challenging • transforming