# DfE partners with Chiltern Learning Trust to develop AI guidelines for schools



The Department for Education (DfE) has finalised a significant arrangement with Chiltern Learning Trust to develop guidelines aimed at the safe utilisation of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies within educational institutions. This partnership follows a consultation exercise that sought insights from educators regarding current and prospective AI applications in schools, as well as associated challenges.

In late 2023, the DfE initiated a call for evidence, gathering input specifically from the education sector. According to recently released commercial documents, the predominant request from educators was for additional training and guidance concerning the safe deployment of AI in classrooms and administrative operations. The DfE's response involved launching a bidding process intended to procure the development of two comprehensive online resources: one tailored for teachers and the other aimed at school leaders.

On 10 December, the DfE entered into a contract with Chiltern Learning Trust, a multi-academy trust that oversees 18 schools located in Luton and Bedfordshire. The agreement is set to last until 31 March 2026. Initial funding from the DfE amounts to £240,654, which will be utilised during the first four months of the contract. During this period, the trust will gather feedback from teachers and school leaders, which will inform the design of the DfE’s AI guidelines.

The commercial notice released by the DfE elaborates on the supplier’s responsibilities, stating that the successful contractor is expected to engage closely with the education sector throughout the policy design process. The guidelines will not only focus on safety and implementation but will also include opportunities for gathering evidence and case studies through peer-to-peer networks. This collaborative effort highlights the DfE’s intent to create a robust framework that addresses the educational community’s needs regarding AI technologies.

As AI continues to evolve and permeate various sectors, the initiative by the DfE and Chiltern Learning Trust underscores a growing recognition within the education system of the importance of integrating technology responsibly and effectively.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.schoolsforeverychild.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=590&type=pdf> - This link provides a detailed AI policy from Schools for Every Child, outlining the responsible integration of AI in education, which aligns with the need for guidelines on safe AI utilization in schools.
2. <https://thekeysupport.com/trust-matters-talks-emma-darcy/> - This article discusses the integration of AI in education by Chiltern Learning Trust, highlighting the importance of training, guidance, and collaboration, which is consistent with the DfE's initiative.
3. <https://www.bettshow.com/bett-articles/ai-guide-schools> - This guide for schools on AI usage emphasizes the need for well-defined educational goals and evidence-based effectiveness, supporting the DfE's approach to developing comprehensive guidelines.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-on-parent-and-pupil-attitudes-towards-the-use-of-ai-in-education/research-on-public-attitudes-towards-the-use-of-ai-in-education> - This research on public attitudes towards AI in education involves workshops and discussions that gather insights from educators and parents, similar to the consultation exercise mentioned in the article.
5. <https://thekeysupport.com/trust-matters-talks-emma-darcy/> - Emma Darcy's discussion on AI integration at Denbigh High School and Chiltern Learning Trust highlights the importance of teacher training and school leader guidance, aligning with the DfE's initiative for developing online resources.
6. <https://www.schoolsforeverychild.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=590&type=pdf> - The AI policy mentions the involvement of the Department for Education’s guidance, indicating a collaborative approach to policy design, similar to the DfE's contract with Chiltern Learning Trust.
7. <https://www.bettshow.com/bett-articles/ai-guide-schools> - The article emphasizes collaboration and learning from other schools' experiences with AI, which is in line with the DfE’s intent to gather feedback and case studies through peer-to-peer networks.
8. <https://thekeysupport.com/trust-matters-talks-emma-darcy/> - The discussion on AI steering groups and in-house platforms for sharing best practices supports the idea of a collaborative effort in designing and implementing AI guidelines.
9. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-on-parent-and-pupil-attitudes-towards-the-use-of-ai-in-education/research-on-public-attitudes-towards-the-use-of-ai-in-education> - The research methodology involving workshops and participant feedback aligns with the DfE’s approach to gathering insights from the education sector.
10. <https://www.schoolsforeverychild.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=590&type=pdf> - The policy emphasizes the importance of transparency, accountability, and data protection, which are key aspects of the guidelines the DfE aims to develop.
11. <https://thekeysupport.com/trust-matters-talks-emma-darcy/> - The article highlights the need for ongoing training and awareness about AI, reflecting the DfE’s focus on providing comprehensive resources for teachers and school leaders.
12. <https://www.publictechnology.net/2025/01/10/education-and-skills/dfe-signs-240k-deal-to-develop-ai-guidance-for-teachers-and-school-leaders/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data