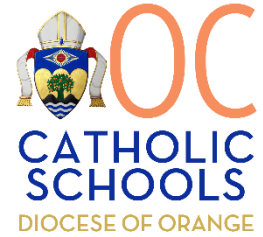


AI GUIDELINES FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

2024 - 2025

DIOCESE OF ORANGE, DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

FORWARD IN FAITH, ROOTED IN LEARNING



INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence (AI) offers great promise, but also poses significant ethical challenges, as highlighted by Pope Francis in his reflections on technology. The Pope described AI as "an exciting and fearsome tool," emphasizing that it must be used responsibly, with a clear focus on serving humanity. In the context of Catholic education, AI should always be a tool that supports the dignity of every person, contributing to the holistic development of students, rather than diminishing their individuality or personal growth.

In Catholic schools, AI has the potential to revolutionize personalized learning, helping teachers meet the diverse needs of students more effectively. At the same time, it can streamline administrative tasks, allowing educators to focus more on what truly matters—the formation of young minds and hearts. However, AI should never replace the human relationships and community that are central to Catholic education. Instead, it must be a tool that assists teachers in fostering creativity, critical thinking, and moral discernment in their students.

AI PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into Catholic schools must be guided by the mission of Catholic education, which seeks the holistic development of students—spiritually, intellectually, morally, and socially. AI should serve as a tool that enhances the educational experience, always aligning with the values of the Church, the dignity of the human person, and the common good.

CORE PRINCIPLES

1. **Enhancing Student Learning:** AI in the form of adaptive software should be used to support personalized learning pathways that engage and challenge each student reaching his/her potential. By providing tailored resources, AI can help students achieve academic success while nurturing their spiritual and moral growth.
2. **Supporting Teacher Effectiveness and Efficiency:** Generative AI can assist teachers in the creation of engaging lessons, differentiating instruction. AI in our assessment and proactive platforms can support teachers by offering real-time insights into student progress. These lessons and data insights can provide teachers the ability to engage students where they are and assist students with just-in-time supporters.
3. **Fostering Creativity and Critical Thinking:** AI should complement, not replace, human-led education. It should inspire creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking, while ensuring that students remain active participants in their learning journey.
4. **Protecting the Human Connection:** AI must never undermine the essential relationships between teachers and students. Catholic education emphasizes community, personal relationships, and mentorship—none of which can be replaced by technology.

5. **Ensuring Ethical Use of AI:** AI should always be used in ways that respect privacy, protect data, and mitigate biases and inequalities. Ethical AI usage aligns with the Church’s commitment to justice, equity, and human dignity.
 6. **Safeguarding Human Dignity:** AI must be implemented in ways that honor the inherent dignity of every student, teacher, and staff member. As Pope Francis clearly stated, AI is a tool to be used to improve the well-being of people. Its role in education should be to support individuals reaching their potential grounded in the belief that each person is made in the image of God and deserves dignity.
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GENERATIVE AI FOR DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION: TEACHER RESOURCE KIT

The use of generative AI can play a crucial role in supporting differentiated instruction, ensuring that all learners in a Catholic classroom receive the appropriate level of challenge and support. Schools are encouraged to use this template to tailor AI resources and practices to the specific needs of their students and faculty. It is critical that teachers are actively engaged in monitoring student progress and supporting them with direct instruction when engaging in AI tools that are embedded in platforms such as Freckle and i-Ready.

Purpose:

Generative AI can help teachers meet the diverse needs of their students by personalizing content, pacing, and learning styles. This resource kit offers guidance on how AI tools can be integrated into Catholic schools to enhance differentiated instruction while maintaining the core values of human dignity, equity, and inclusion.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS OF AI FOR DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION:

1. **Personalized Learning Paths:**
 - AI-powered tools can analyze individual student performance and suggest personalized learning materials that meet the student’s current ability level, whether they need enrichment or remediation. For example, AI can adjust reading levels, generate practice problems, or suggest additional resources that align with a student’s specific learning needs. It is incumbent on the teacher to review student progress in purposeful practice platforms such as Freckle and IXL and to support their progress towards mastery.
2. **Multimodal Instruction:**
 - AI can generate diverse types of learning materials (videos, texts, interactive exercises, etc.) that cater to different learning preferences. This allows teachers to provide visual, auditory, and kinesthetic options for students with varied learning styles.
3. **Real-Time Feedback:**
 - AI can offer instant, individualized feedback to students, helping them to understand their errors and guiding them toward improvement. This empowers students to take ownership of their learning, while also giving teachers insight into where students might need additional support.

4. Scaffolding and Supports for Special Needs:

- AI tools can be used to provide accommodations for students with learning disabilities or other special needs, such as generating text-to-speech options, creating simplified summaries, or offering alternative explanations for complex concepts.

TEACHER CUSTOMIZATION SECTION:

Schools are encouraged to use this template to develop their own specific strategies and resources based on their classroom context. Below is a space for teachers or schools to input their own AI-supported strategies for differentiated instruction:

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC AI STRATEGIES FOR DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION:

- **Resource 1:** [Insert AI tool or platform]
How it will be used: [Describe how this tool will support student differentiation, teacher needs, etc.]
- **Resource 2:** [Insert AI tool or platform]
How it will be used: [Describe specific applications, e.g., generating lesson materials, tutoring, etc.]
- **Resource 3:** [Insert AI tool or platform]
How it will be used: [Describe how this tool will assist in personalized instruction, accommodating various learners]

GUIDANCE FOR TEACHERS ON AI USE:

- **Maintain Oversight:** AI should supplement, not replace, the teacher's role in the classroom. All AI-generated content and feedback should be reviewed and contextualized by the teacher before presenting it to students. Maintaining oversight necessitates teachers staying current on their site's policies and procedures and advancements in AI as it relates to education.
- **Encourage Critical Thinking:** Use AI tools to support the development of challenging questions that encourage students to think critically and explore beyond the generated answers. AI can spark curiosity, but it is the teacher's role to guide students toward deeper understanding.
- **Ethical Use:** Ensure that AI applications used in the classroom align with Catholic teachings, respecting privacy and human dignity. AI should promote inclusivity, fairness, and transparency in all its applications.

ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE USE OF AI

FOR TEACHERS:

Acceptable Use:

- **Supporting Student Learning:** Teachers may use AI tools to assist with grading, lesson planning, and generating educational resources that align with the Catholic curriculum. AI can help personalize learning experiences by providing real-time insights into student performance, allowing for targeted support.
- **Faith Formation:** AI can be used to help create personalized faith formation resources, lessons and projects that can support teachers in creating engaging encounters with the faith. Magisterium AI is one resource that can be used in this process.

Unacceptable Use:

- **Replacing Direct Teaching:** AI should support and not replace human engagement or the critical role of the teacher in understanding and applying learning, mentoring, and providing spiritual guidance. Teachers must avoid over-reliance on AI for content delivery, ensuring that students receive holistic instruction that integrates academic and spiritual elements.
- **Infringing on Privacy:** Teachers must not use AI systems to gather or store personal data about students without appropriate consent. Protecting the privacy and dignity of students is paramount in all AI applications.
- **Bias or Discrimination:** AI tools should not be used to support the spread of or strengthen biases and inequalities. Teachers must ensure that the use of AI in their classroom promotes inclusivity and fairness.

FOR STUDENTS:

Acceptable Use:

- **Educational Assistance:** Students may use AI tools with teacher guidance to support their learning, such as using AI-powered tutors for homework assistance, research, or writing support. However, AI should be used as a supplement to, not a replacement for, active engagement with the material.
- **Ethical Research and Learning:** AI can be used for ethical and educational purposes, such as finding information on topics that align with both academic and moral objectives. Students should cite any AI-generated assistance when completing assignments.

Unacceptable Use:

- **Academic Dishonesty:** Using AI to complete assignments, exams, or any academic work without proper attribution is considered cheating. Students must not rely on AI to generate content that they claim as their own. Proper credit must be given if AI tools are used to support research or writing. Students must adhere to the assignment-specific guidance on the level of use of AI in the completion of said assignment.
- **Inappropriate Content Creation:** AI must not be used to generate content that goes against Catholic teachings, such as offensive language, inappropriate images, or materials that undermine the Church's mission.
- **Misuse of AI Tools:** Students should not use AI for activities that could harm themselves or others, including cyberbullying, harassment, or any malicious activity. AI must not be employed in ways that violate the school's code of conduct or moral guidelines.

AI IN CLASSROOM ENGAGEMENT

- **Teacher-Led AI Use:** Teachers must be supported on how to use AI to support learning while emphasizing critical thinking and moral reasoning by the student. AI should spark curiosity and inquiry but must always be framed within the broader context of the Church's teachings on truth, justice, and respect for others.
 - Teachers are encouraged to clearly outline if and how AI is to be used in projects and assignments to avoid confusion.
 - **Promoting Accountability:** Any AI-assisted work should be accompanied by a verbal or written explanation from the student on how the tool was used. This encourages transparency and ensures that students remain engaged in their learning process rather than passively relying on technology.
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CONSEQUENCES FOR MISUSE

Violations of the acceptable use guidelines will be handled according to the school's disciplinary policy, ensuring that students understand the importance of academic integrity and ethical behavior when using AI. Consequences for misuse may include redoing assignments, loss of AI tool access, and other measures depending on the severity of the violation.

WAYS TO SUPPORT TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN THE USE OF AI

Teachers need guidance in the effective use of AI in its multiple forms to support student learning. The school site may find it advantageous to promote the use of particular generative AIs for specific functions. For example, AIs for defined tasks such as lesson planning and image creation. This will allow for cohesive and directed PD opportunities. One focus of PD for staff and students should be prompt engineering.

Parents play a crucial role in supporting the use of AI in the education of their children. Parents can encourage students to be transparent about the use of AI in the completion of assignments. Parents can also provide support to teachers by helping students know and adhere to AI policies of the site and specific classes and lessons. It is incumbent on the site and the teacher to communicate the parameters of the use of AI in general and in specific assignments. Parents can also support the school by honoring the evaluation process in determining if AI has been misused.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Any information provided to an AI platform becomes part of the platform. This is why protecting personal identifiable information when using Generative AI is so important.
- ChatGPT-3 does not have information beyond September of 2021.
- AI is a tool. It is an awesome and fearsome tool to paraphrase Pope Francis and as such should be used after training and with caution.
- AI can provide information that is inaccurate and/or biased. Generative AI can be susceptible to hallucinations. Results of queries should be fact checked.
- Teachers can put into place practices that help support the level of use of AI in assignment completion.
- Monitor devices through platforms that allow the teacher to control access to apps and websites.
- Require opinion-based responses
- Projects that require audio and video and feature the student.
- Ideas that help teachers authenticate work.
- Compare assignments to previous work noting diction and style
- Have assignments worked on in class. Assign practice for homework.
- Create a rubric that clearly defines the level, if any, of acceptable use of AI in the completion of an assignment.
- Educate students in the proper citation of AI when it is used in assignments.

CONCLUSION

As Pope Francis has said, AI is “an exciting and fearsome tool” that must always “serve to satisfy the needs of humanity, to improve the well-being and integral development of people.” Catholic schools must embrace AI responsibly, ensuring that its use always honors the dignity of the human person and fosters the spiritual and intellectual growth of students.

RESOURCES:

- [Continuum of AI Usage](#)
- [7 Takeaways from BLiCSS 7.0](#)
- [A look at Pope Francis's views on AI](#)
- <https://gptzero.me/>
- <https://www.zerogpt.com/>
- <https://quillbot.com/>