

AI classroom plan must involve school support staff



The Government's plan to introduce artificial intelligence in classrooms must be done in consultation with school support staff, GMB Union has said.

The [AI Opportunities Action Plan](#), announced today [Monday] Ministers "anticipate that AI will be a useful tool for assessment in the education sector...helping some teachers cut down the 15+ hours a week they spend on lesson planning and marking."

GMB is concerned school support staff are left out of conversations around new technology.

A recent survey of GMB's tens of thousands of school support staff members, only six per cent said their employers consult them before new technology is introduced in schools.



Meanwhile 60 per cent were worried technological progresses might be used to reduce staffing levels during the next five years.

Stacey Booth, GMB National Officer, said:

“Many support staff will be worried about what the Government’s plans mean for their work day-to-day.

“GMB members cannot be left out of the conversation.

“Automation is nothing new in education and some of our members already use new technologies in their jobs.

“Well-designed forms of new technology can improve education but there are natural limits and it cannot replace those relied upon to educate our children.

“It is crucial that school support staff are not left absent from the Government’s understanding and ambition.

“They must have a say over any proposals that affect their work; the reinstated School Support Staff Negotiating Body is the place to have that conversation when it is up and running.”

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