



Department for Education

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**The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education**

Stacey Booth
GMB National Officer (Schools)
By email: info@gmb.org.uk

16 May 2025

Dear Stacey,

Thank you for your correspondence of 28 April, regarding the GMB's report about technology standards and artificial intelligence (AI) in education.

I am grateful to you for sending a copy of your report which I have shared with my officials.

Technology is at the centre of our mission led government's Plan for Change. To deliver this, it is vital that we have clear security and safety standards and that all staff have the necessary support so they can continue improving student outcomes and run operations effectively and efficiently.

Meeting the digital and technology standards facilitates more informed decisions about technology leading to safer, more cost-efficient practices and new learning opportunities for students. The standards can help schools with budgeting for technology procurement and maintenance, buying technology equipment and services, renewing a contract with a technology provider to ensure purchases meet needs, and correctly installing new equipment.

The standards are to be used by everyone involved in the planning and use of technology within schools and colleges. We are eager to ensure that all those involved in the procurement or governance of, or delivering training for digital technology have awareness of the standards. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the GMB on increased awareness and understanding of the digital and technology standards for your members and appreciate the proposal to use (Improving Education Together) IET to consider how we can most effectively communicate and raise awareness of materials such as the standards amongst the education profession.

We also wanted to use this opportunity to let you know about our recently launched 'Plan technology for your school' service. It is free and available to all schools and is designed to provide further support on the 'how' of meeting the digital and technology standards. The 'Plan technology for your school' guidance can be found on GOV.UK at: tinyurl.com/Y2ZD3AAZ.

This service helps those involved in the planning, implementation and use of technology in a school to:

- self-assess their current technology set up;
- receive bespoke recommendations on what to improve next, why and how;

- meet our digital and technology standards. Further information about these standards is available on GOV.UK at: [tinyurl.com/BDH3Y3W2](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ai-standards).

With regard to AI, I want to continue to work together to harness its potential in improving student outcomes and tackling staff workloads, whilst ensuring it is used safely for all staff and students. Your members have raised a number of valid concerns that we address in our 'Generative AI in education' policy paper, which you can find on GOV.UK at: [tinyurl.com/Y7YTDB7E](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/generative-ai-in-education). Again, any support GMB can provide in raising awareness of this amongst your members would be extremely valuable. We are clear that AI's role is not to replace staff. Instead, we want it to reduce bureaucracy and free up time for direct student engagement. The policy paper states that generative AI tools can make certain written tasks quicker and easier. However, it cannot replace the judgement and deep subject knowledge of a human expert. Technology, including generative AI, should not replace the valuable relationship between teachers, support staff and pupils.

We are also developing online resources and guidance materials to help staff use AI safely in their setting. The materials will be relevant to all staff including support staff. It will set out the basic information that everyone working with young people should know about using AI safely, a number of use cases covering teaching and learning, personalised learning and administrative processes, and help address the risks and opportunities of AI as part of a wider digital strategy.

As agreed at the IET board meeting, my officials are developing proposals for how we work together on technology and AI and your report will inform those proposals. I look forward to working with you as they progress.

Thank you for writing to me. I hope you find this response useful.

*Yours sincerely,
Bridget*

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education