Digital Education and Strategy Service

Online Safety Newsletter+
Spring 2025

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Welcome to our Spring 2025 Newsletter

We trust you are all keeping safe and well. Please feel free to share this newsletter with other members of staff from your school.

They can **subscribe to receive the online safety newsletter by clicking here.** We hope you find the newsletter useful and if you have any feedback about our service to schools or anything you would like to see in next term's update, please do not hesitate to let us know by emailing **information@entrust-ed.co.uk.**

We are here to help!

If you require any in-school or remote support then please get in touch to see how we can help.

Safer Internet Day 2025

Safer Internet Day is an annual event aimed at promoting safer and more responsible use of online technology. The theme this year was 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'.

Research conducted by UKSIC identifies that:

- **79% of young people** come across online scams at least monthly, with 20%, including children as young as 8, seeing scams online every day. It's crucial to educate our youth on how to identify and avoid these scams.
- **Almost a fifth of 8 to 17-year-olds (18%)** know someone their age who has lost money to an online scam.
- **Over a quarter (26%) of young people** who've been scammed online blame themselves.
- **74% of 8 to 17-year-olds** want to learn more about how to spot scams online.

The Digital Futures for Children centre has published a blog post on online financial scams and identifies four key deceptions targeted at children: phishing, fake online stores, investment scams, and lottery scams.

Media Smart have launched a video and guide for young people aged 13+ to identify possible scams, how to avoid them, how to report scams and where to go for support if you've been affected by them.

Parentzone Everyday Digital has a **resource** you could use to run a parent workshop about the risks of online mis- and disinformation. Or you may prefer one of our online safety experts visit your school to run a parent session to empower parents to better protect their children online or workshop with students and parents.

Find out more

For more information contact **information@entrust-ed.co.uk**

360 Degree Safe Report
Online safety in English schools

The latest report reveals a surprising and concerning slowdown in progress. Schools are struggling to keep up with the rapidly evolving demands of online safety and are over-relying on technical safeguards while neglecting broader educational strategies.

Do your teachers find it difficult to know what to teach for online safety that is progressive with purposeful student activities and discussion?

We recommend using ProjectEVOLVE. It is a bank of resources for Reception through to Year 13, aligned to the UKCIS framework 'Education for a Connected World' The Knowledge Map feature in ProjectEVOLVE enables you to map students and their progression against a set of competencies mapped to the ProjectEVOLVE resources.

Is online safety mapped out into your curriculum, with allocated time across the year to deliver content? Is there sufficient teaching time given to online safety to cover a breadth of issues aligned to the 4 areas of online risk: content, contact, conduct and commerce? How is this mapped to your PSHE teaching in school to fully embed the messages?

We can provide consultancy to review your curriculum provision for online safety and support staff to develop a purposeful and structured online safety curriculum.

Are your teachers knowledgeable about the four areas of online risk: content, contact, conduct and commerce?

We can deliver online safety CPD to your staff. We don't provide a pre-recorded video for staff to watch in their own time. Instead, we will deliver training to all staff, provide discussion points to encourage active participation and will respond to questions that may arise to clear up any misconceptions or support embedding understanding of key online safety knowledge and good practice.

Artificially generated child sexual abuse images

As with many forms of technology, its original intent is to support our lives in positive ways and transform the way we do things. AI tools are rapidly appearing and evolving and their uses explored. Sadly, AI tools are also being used by some, for harmful and illegal purposes.

The IWF reports a 6% increase in confirmed reports of websites containing AI generated CSA material. This content is increasingly being found on publicly accessible areas of the internet, exposing even more people to the harmful and horrific imagery. This alarming trend highlights the need for increased vigilance and proactive measures to protect children online.

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse has produced a short blog to explain what artificially generated child sexual abuse material is, its legal status, and how professionals can use their existing skills to support children and young people who come into contact with, or are affected by, artificially generated child sexual abuse material.

‘Nudifying’ apps

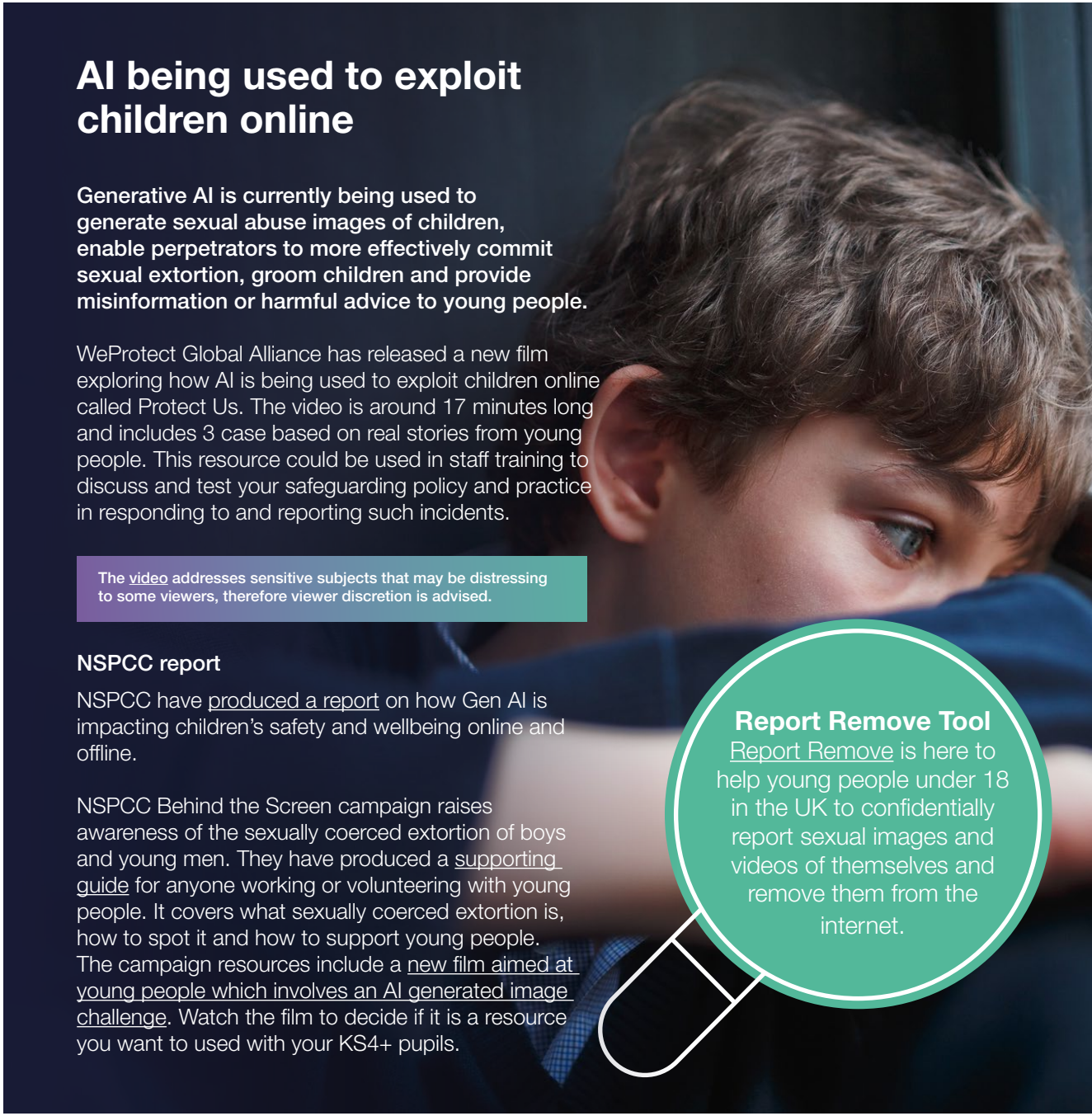
Nudify tools are widely available online. These AI models which strip the clothes from images of real people, including children, have become more common with the development of GenAI.

New UK laws will make it illegal to possess, create, or distribute AI-generated child sexual abuse material (CSAM), with penalties of up to five years in prison. Additionally, possessing AI “paedophile manuals” will be punishable by up to three years in prison. These measures aim to combat the growing threat of AI in online child abuse. Read more here.

Internet Matters report, “The new face of digital abuse: Children’s experiences of nude deep fakes” highlights that 13% of teens say they have some sort of experience with nude deepfakes, which equates to around 4 children in a class of 30 or almost half a million UK teens.

Boys and vulnerable children are more likely to have engaged with a nude deepfake. Teen boys are twice as likely as teen girls to report experience with a nude deepfake. 25% of vulnerable children say they have experience with a nude deepfake compared to 11% of non-vulnerable children.

How aware are students of the risks of nudification apps and the images that are generated? The possession of, and sharing of, a deepfake sexual image of a child is a criminal offence. Currently it is not illegal in the UK to access a nudification app or create indecent deepfake images or videos, however, there are discussion in Government to ban nudification apps.



AI being used to exploit children online

Generative AI is currently being used to generate sexual abuse images of children, enable perpetrators to more effectively commit sexual extortion, groom children and provide misinformation or harmful advice to young people.

WeProtect Global Alliance has released a new film exploring how AI is being used to exploit children online called Protect Us. The video is around 17 minutes long and includes 3 case based on real stories from young people. This resource could be used in staff training to discuss and test your safeguarding policy and practice in responding to and reporting such incidents.

The video addresses sensitive subjects that may be distressing to some viewers, therefore viewer discretion is advised.

NSPCC report

NSPCC have produced a report on how Gen AI is impacting children’s safety and wellbeing online and offline.

NSPCC Behind the Screen campaign raises awareness of the sexually coerced extortion of boys and young men. They have produced a supporting guide for anyone working or volunteering with young people. It covers what sexually coerced extortion is, how to spot it and how to support young people. The campaign resources include a new film aimed at young people which involves an AI generated image challenge. Watch the film to decide if it is a resource you want to used with your KS4+ pupils.

Report Remove Tool

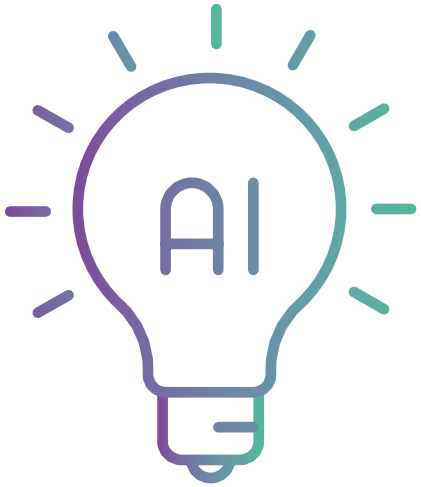
Report Remove is here to help young people under 18 in the UK to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet.

Staff use of AI

Generative AI can significantly reduce administrative burdens for school staff, allowing them to focus more on teaching and student engagement. However, this also comes with challenges including ensuring data privacy, managing ethical considerations, and addressing the potential for over-reliance on AI tools.

The Department for Education (DfE) recently published guidance on AI use in education, this emphasises the importance of using AI safely and effectively to enhance teaching and learning, while addressing potential risks and ensuring data privacy and intellectual property protection. Read the guidance here.

We have written 2 new training sessions for schools that discuss Gen AI tools and the opportunities and challenges that schools and senior leaders need to understand before realising the benefits of this technology.



Staff training on effective and safe use of AI to reduce workload

Understand what AI is and how it can be used to support activities such as lesson planning, creating teaching resources and administrative tasks. Consider potential risks of using AI and how to mitigate them enabling school staff to safely and effectively use AI.

AI policy development session for senior leadership

Discuss the benefits, limitations and risks that can be associated with teacher use of gen AI tools. The session will support senior leaders to make informed choices over the use of Gen AI for staff and to develop policy guidelines and risk assessment considerations. N.B. we do not create an AI policy during this session but provide guidance and support regarding what to consider including in an AI policy.

Contact information@entrust-ed.co.uk for more details on the support we provide.

Students are making use of AI

Recent research from Ofcom shows that 79% of online teenagers aged 13-17 use generative AI tools and services, while 40% of younger children aged 7-12 have also adopted the technology. Additionally, the percentage of children aged 13-18 using AI has more than doubled from 37% in 2023 to 77% in 2024. Read more here.

These tools are primarily used for entertainment, curiosity, homework, and seeking inspiration. However, there are 18+ age restrictions on most Gen AI tools and as there is concern that young people will enter personal data and could put themselves at risk, Google Gemini have recently lowered the age restriction to 13. How is your school teaching students about AI and the benefits and risks of its use?

For schools subscribing to J2e through Entrust, you also have access to the Entrust Computing Scheme of Work. We are delighted to announce that we have updated our AI lesson plans to include a comprehensive 6-lesson module for year 6 students on AI.

Prank online videos

There are channels and accounts online dedicated to sharing prank videos between families and friends that can be harmless and entertaining. How do we educate students about the risks these videos can have?

Check out UKSIC's article on prank videos.

360 Safe - online safety policy templates

SWGfL have published a new policy template and have updated existing templates to take into account the use of AI in schools.

360 Safe Multi Academy Trust licences

The 360 degree safe tool is a free, award-winning online safety self-review tool that helps schools assess and improve their online safety policies and practices by identifying strengths and areas for development, encouraging collaboration, and providing actionable feedback. 360 degree Safe Online Safety Tool

Multi Academy Trusts are able to access the 360 safe data for their academies through a 360 MAT Licence. Details can be found here. The licence allows you to print aggregated reports for the MAT:

- **Establishment List Report** – list of registered schools, their progress in the tool and their levels
- **Aspect Level Overview Report** – allows you to compare the average level of the MAT's schools for each aspect with the national average for that aspect

You can also access reports for individual schools in the MAT.

We can support your establishment to complete the review tool and provide support to improve any areas of development to meet the required standard. We are national 360 safe online safety mark assessors and have extensive knowledge of the tool and the expected standards.

Find out more

Contact **information@entrust-ed.co.uk** for more details on the support we provide.

Cyber security

Temporary closure of a school following a ransomware attack

Blacon High School near Chester was closed to students whilst a cyber-security company investigates the data breach.

Cyber-attacks can lead to significant disruptions, financial losses, and the compromise of sensitive student and staff information. Costs include expenses related to the replacement of computer hardware, enhancing cybersecurity measures to prevent future attacks, and addressing the immediate aftermath of a breach.

Beyond the direct financial costs, schools may face extended periods of downtime, during which they are unable to access critical systems and data. This can result in the loss of instructional time, delays in administrative processes, and a general disruption of the educational environment.

Furthermore, the theft or exposure of sensitive student and staff information can lead to long-term financial and reputational damage, as schools may be required to provide credit monitoring services and deal with potential legal ramifications.

Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges – cyber security standards provide a framework that can be used to audit your cyber security provision and help build your cyber resilience. We can provide a supportive and structured consultancy session to guide you through, and evaluate, your current cyber security provision against the DfE Meeting digital and technology standards - cyber security standards.

Strategic, operational and technical cyber security measures will be discussed and self-evaluated.

Both the Academy trust and Maintained schools' governance guides require 'board/governing bodies will seek assurances from senior leaders that the trust/school is adequately prepared if a cyber incident occurs and that, as trustees/governors, they are aware of cyber risks.'

Your school will receive a detailed report highlighting areas where your school meets DfE standards and suggested areas for improvement and action. The report can be used to set priorities for cyber security actions and as evidence for governance regarding your cyber security provision.

Contact information@entrust-ed.co.uk for more details on the cyber audit we provide.

The UK government's guidance on internal scrutiny in academy trusts includes reviewing your cyber security posture.

Attention school Governors - what do you know about filtering and monitoring in your school?

In today's digital age, ensuring the safety and security of our students online is paramount.

The Department for Education (DfE) has set forth stringent filtering and monitoring standards that schools must adhere to. Understanding these standards is crucial for safeguarding our students and maintaining compliance with legislative requirements.

Why attend the training session?

Our recent training session on filtering and monitoring standards received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants, highlighting its value and importance.

Here are some key takeaways from the session that underscore the necessity of understanding these standards:

1. **Comprehensive Understanding:** Participants gained a much deeper understanding of the filtering and monitoring processes required in school settings. This knowledge is essential for ensuring that our schools are compliant with DfE standards and that our students are protected online.
2. **Practical Insights:** The session provided practical suggestions on how to review and improve current monitoring and filtering systems. Attendees appreciated the updates on requirements and the helpful tips on conducting annual reviews and testing filtering systems within schools.
3. **Knowledge Gaps Addressed:** The training helped identify gaps in existing knowledge due to changes in legislation. Participants felt more confident in their ability to perform necessary checks and ensure that the standards are being implemented effectively in their schools.
4. **Engaging and Informative:** Feedback on the presentation was highly positive, with participants praising the clear, engaging, and informative content. The presenter's expertise and the well-structured slides were noted as valuable resources that will aid in ongoing efforts to maintain and improve filtering and monitoring systems.

Next steps

To continue promoting the importance of understanding and implementing these standards, we encourage all school governors to attend the upcoming training sessions. By doing so, you will be better equipped to support your schools in maintaining a safe online environment for students.

Book now - Understanding the DfE Filtering and Monitoring

Date: 12/06/2025 **Course code:** LTTL-OM-0625-T002 **Time:** 15:45-16:45
Venue: Virtual delivery **Cost:** £29

To book your place, please call 0333 300 1900 (option 3) or click **here**

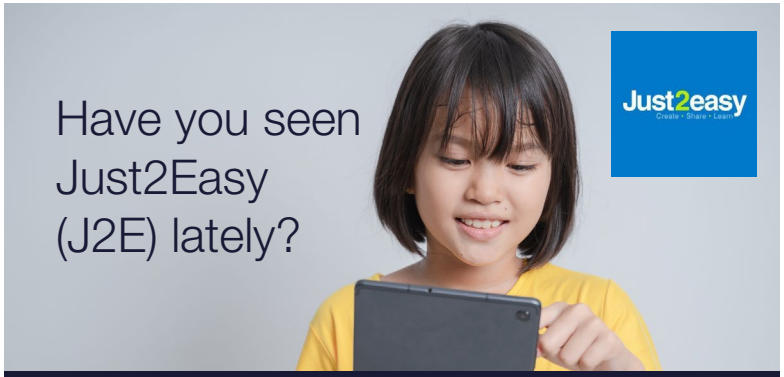
The New DfE Tool
Plan Technology for your School

What prevents schools from fully adopting EdTech? While it is easy to assume that technical or financial issues are the main obstacles, the reality is that the barriers to effective implementation often run much deeper.

Recent research on barriers to technology adoption, challenges, and integration have found that it is not just the lack of resources that poses a barrier, but also ongoing professional development for teachers to build relevant knowledge, skills, and competencies is essential for effective implementation.

In January the DfE announced a new tool Plan Technology for your School designed to support schools to effectively plan and utilise technology, by answering a series of questions about technology and leadership, schools receive tailored recommendations to improve pupil outcomes, save money, and reduce workload. The tool will help you meet the Digital and Technology in Schools Standards.

The Digital Education and Strategy Services team can support you in planning to integrate technology to support staff and learners so they feel confident to use the tools, the team are proficent in the use of Microsoft, Google and Apple tools as well as having a vast knowledge of education software such as J2e and Purple Mash



It offers age-appropriate software for your primary classroom that is accessible from any internet-enabled device, both at school and at home. With unlimited storage, engaging content for learners, and support for SEND learners, J2e is designed to enhance the educational experience.

J2e also provides:

- home/school communication tools,
- a built-in rewards system,
- features for times table and spelling practice

plus much more!

Schools are saving money with a Just2Easy subscription from Entrust. We offer a **40% discount off** the RRP, and the comprehensive tools in J2e have helped some schools save significantly on other third-party subscriptions for similar services. We offer our subscribing schools' exclusive access to a complementary termly webinar. The next webinar is Thursday 3rd April, at 3.45, we will contact our subscribing schools with an invite soon!

Are you making the most of your J2E subscription? If not, or if you don't have J2e yet and would like to learn more about its benefits, contact us at information@entrust-ed.co.uk to find out how your school could be saving money with J2E.

Windows 10 operating system goes end of life

Have you audited your Windows devices to identify which will not transition to Windows 11? From October 2025 Windows 10 operating system goes end of life.

This means that Microsoft will stop providing security updates for the operating system and any devices still running the Windows 10 operating system will become more vulnerable to cyber threats if you continue to use them.

However, the are options available for those devices that will not support the Windows 11 operating system:

Option 1

Buy Windows 10 extended support licences from Microsoft – This is a last resort option for customers who need to run certain legacy Microsoft products past the end of support. They are not intended as a long-term solution, but rather as a temporary bridge to stay secure while one migrates to a newer, supported platform. It includes Critical* and/or Important* security updates up to three years after the product's End of Extended Support date.

Following discussions between the DfE and Microsoft an agreement has been reached to provide a reduced rate extended support licence to the education sector. The cost increases per licence for each extended year. Note that you must purchase the extended licence per device from Microsoft for these security updates – this does not include any new features and updates to Microsoft over this extended licence period AND the desktop versions of the Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel etc will not include any new features, design changes or non-security updates. Please consider what other software you require on the Windows 10 extended support licence devices, such as anti-virus, encryption, monitoring software and curriculum titles as these may not work or may have reduced functionality as all vendors move to Windows 11 operating systems.

Option 2

Use Chromeflex to convert Windows devices into Chromebooks – You could repurpose the Windows devices using Chromeflex. There are two ways in which you can do this:

- Install Chromeflex AND purchase a Chromeflex licence to be able to manage the converted devices in the Google Admin Console, add Google Workspace and push out any Android apps already available on your regular Chromebooks.
- Install Chromeflex ONLY – these devices would act as a standalone device that could not be centrally managed or have access to Google Workspace or any Andorid apps. Instead, the function of the device is limited to browsing the web, this means that it is able to access and log in to any cloud application such as Microsoft accounts for web apps, Just2Easy, TT Rockstars etc. However, as these devices can not be managed and software can not be deployed to them, then any monitoring software you have for online safety will not be available on these devices so you would need to carry out a risk assessment and deploy other monitoring strategies when these devices are in use.

Option 3

Decommission old devices and replace with new devices – Make sure that any data is removed from the devices and that you follow the DfE standards for disposing of devices sustainably within the laptop, desktop and tablet standards.

We can help you develop a digital strategy

The Digital Education and Strategy Services (DESS) team can assist your organisation in developing a comprehensive digital strategy. Our services cover primary computing, online safety, cloud migration, and cyber and data security.

We work closely with senior leaders to develop a strategic vision that ensures technology is seamlessly integrated into the school's operations. Our team helps shape digital transformation strategies, assists schools in transitioning to and harnessing the power of cloud-based platforms, and supports computing subject leadership and inspection preparation.

We ensure that schools are well-prepared for inspections and provide coaching and mentoring for staff to use technology confidently, fostering a culture of digital competence within the school.

Find out more

Contact information@entrust-ed.co.uk

micro:bit

funded projects for schools

Are you interested in free training and resources?

We are excited to announce the next roll out of funded projects for Micro:bits and we are looking for schools who want to take part! We have 2 projects:

1. EcoCode

EcoCode is an exciting new project enabling young people in schools and communities to explore the exciting world of sustainable physical computing through the lens of groundbreaking research at UKRI and the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories. This projects aims to help your young people to learn essential programming, engineering and communication skills by taking part in live classes, in-school or community face to face workshops or through our online and face to face training opportunities. These sessions are aimed at Year 4 to Year 8 and we have limited number of free sessions available to school.

The EcoCode series will provide a number of activities/lessons contextualised around exciting sustainable research including:

- Earth observation
- Salt energy storage
- Cosmic rays – available now
- Lasers
- Weather stations
- The natural world (polar bears, spiders, penguins, frogs, llamas) – available now
- Plant partners
- Scientific computing
- Space cryocoolers
- Wind turbines
- Particle trackers

2. Coding for Climate Action

Key Stage 2 and 3 Computing-Science unit, “Coding for Climate Action,” aligns with the TeachComputing curriculum. Suitable for years 4, 6 and 8 - we are seeking pilot schools to participate in this innovative program that encourages students to code micro:bits, addressing natural hazards and exploring climate change through project-based learning. Our goal is to empower students to use technology and coding to tackle environmental challenges.

Benefits for your school:

- No cost involved—just your time and commitment
- Professional development for teachers
- Access to resources for a six week unit of work for Micro:bits and computing that can be used cross-curricular
- Summer or autumn term project

If you would like to participate, please indicate which year groups you are willing to work with. Please note that we have a limit of 10 case studies, and participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Find out more

To find out more about taking part in these funded projects, please email: sarah.fitzgerald@entrust-ed.co.uk

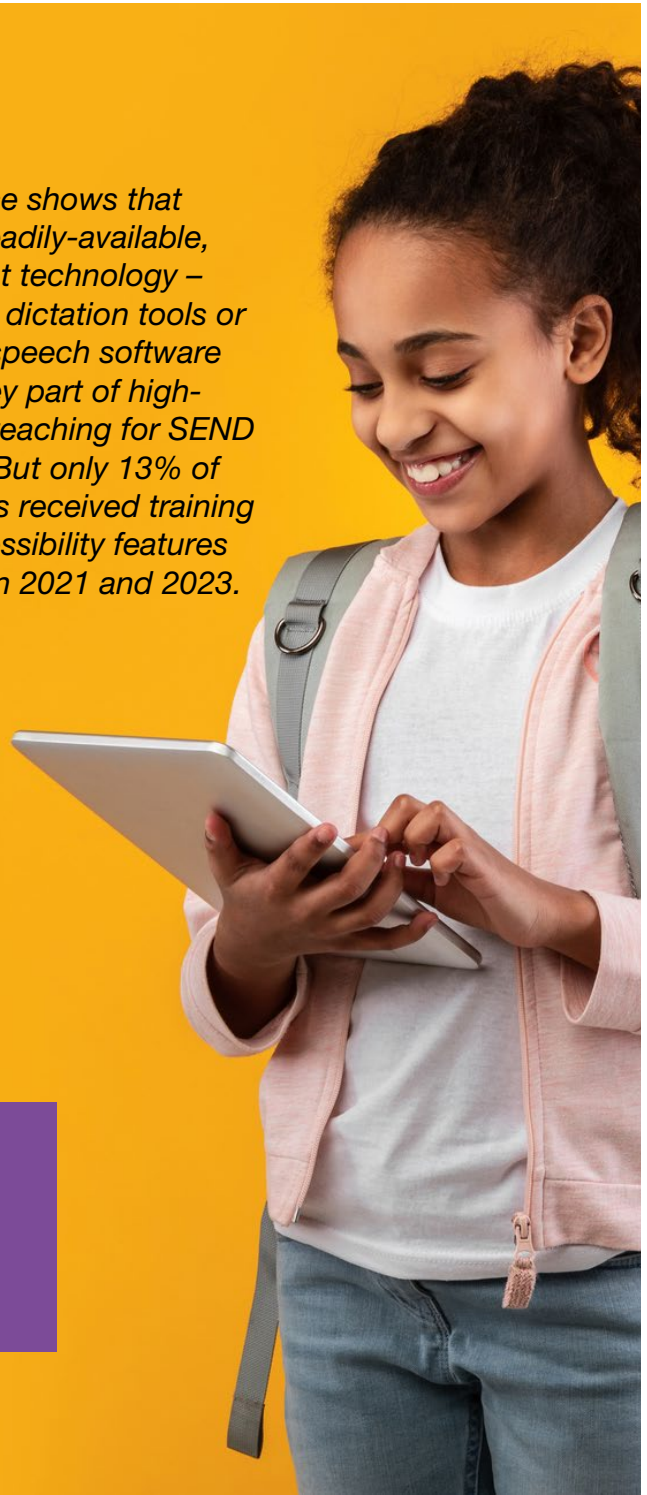
Technology and SEND

At the Bett Show in London on 22nd January 2025, the Education Secretary announced plans for a digital revolution in schools.

Some of the main takeaways from the speech include:

- for many children, edtech is not just a luxury but a fundamental part of their learning. This underscores the importance of integrating technology to support SEND students effectively
- leaders have reported that the effective use of assistive technology can significantly impact not just academic results but also the confidence of children in the classroom. This highlights the dual benefit of technology in enhancing both educational outcomes and personal development for SEND students
- the government is commissioning new research to explore how different agencies can best collaborate to encourage schools to use assistive technology as effectively as possible
- schools need to invest in the right technology and ensure it is accessible to all students, including those with SEND. This includes hardware, software, and internet connectivity
- continuous professional development for teachers is crucial. Schools should prioritise training on the use of assistive technology to ensure that teachers are well-equipped to support SEND students
- schools should develop and implement inclusive policies that ensure all students, regardless of their needs, have equal access to educational opportunities
- schools should regularly monitor and evaluate the impact of technology on SEND students' learning and well-being. This will help in making informed decisions and adjustments to their strategies

Evidence shows that using readily-available, low-cost technology – such as dictation tools or text to speech software – is a key part of high-quality teaching for SEND pupils. But only 13% of teachers received training on accessibility features between 2021 and 2023.



Google Workspace for education

New features

Take a look at some of the new features from Google AI tools for education, and new features for personalised learning and online safety.

Re-confirm access to additional Google services for users under 18

Admins have until March 2025 to complete their re-confirmation for additional Google services for users under 18. After March 2025, for any additional Google service that you have not re-confirmed access to, users designated as under 18 can no longer use that service with their Google Workspace for Education account.

Review this help center article to guide you with reviewing and re-confirming Additional Services, which also includes step by step instructional video.

We are here to help! If you require any in school or remote support then please do get in touch with us and we will do all we can to help.

Email **information@entrust-ed.co.uk**
or call **0333 300 1900** to find out more.

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