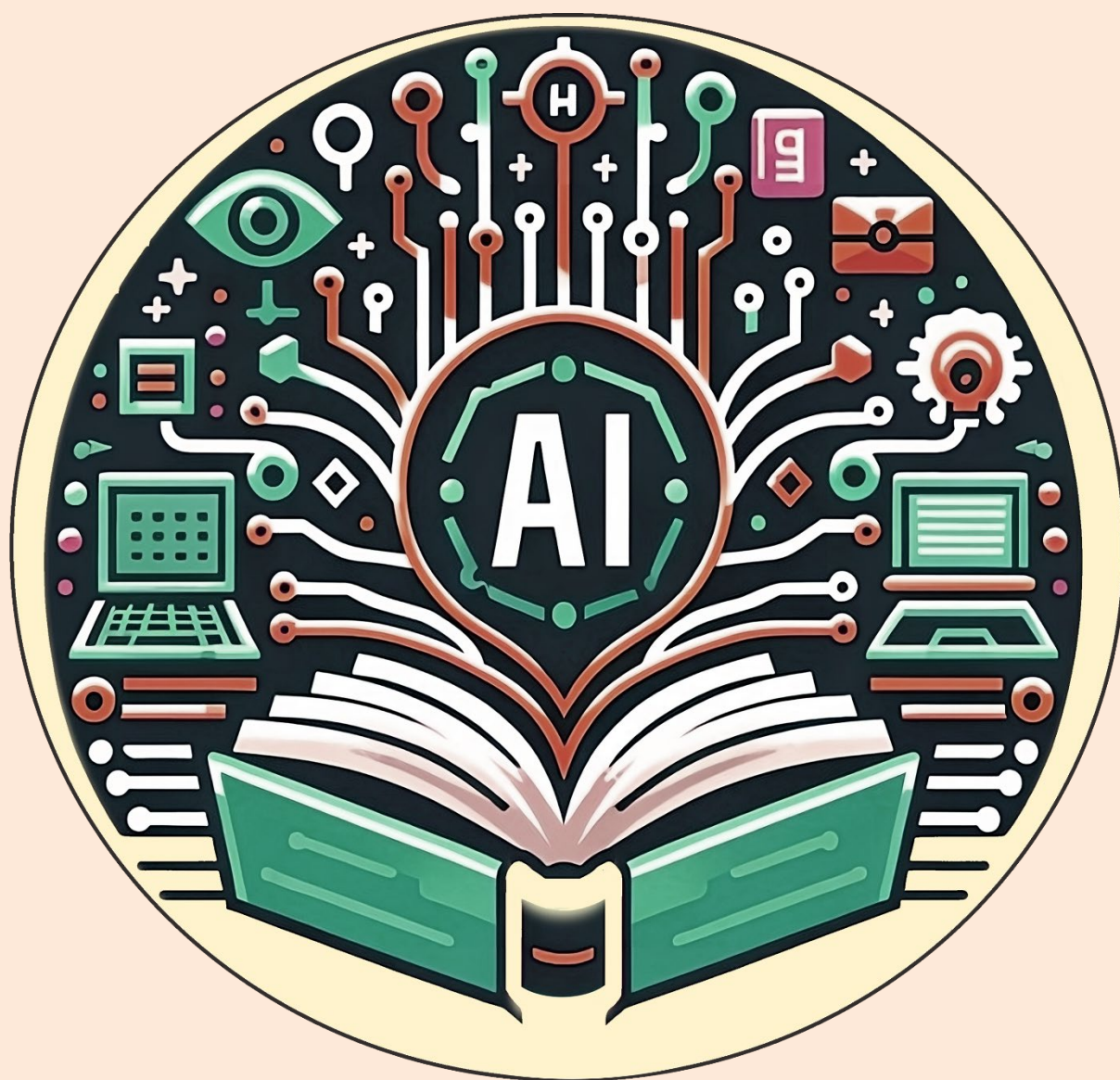


Ethical Code for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Schools



“Some people worry that artificial intelligence will make us feel inferior, but in reality anyone in their right mind should have an inferiority complex every time they look at a flower.”

(Cit. Alan Kay, scientist)

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Abstract

This Ethical Code serves as a necessary complement to the "Manifesto for Generative Artificial Intelligence in Schools", available at www.miasedu.it.

While the Manifesto establishes a theoretical framework and the fundamental principles for the ethical and pedagogical integration of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI) in educational contexts, this Ethical Code—rooted in values such as transparency, equity, responsibility, and respect for human dignity—has a pragmatic and operational function: to transform these guiding principles into concrete, implementable, and verifiable guidelines for daily use in schools. It carefully considers the impact of our choices on every member of the school community and the environment, ensuring that Gen AI applications are inclusive and beneficial for society as a whole.

The need to distinguish between the Manifesto and the Ethical Code stems from the complexity of the pedagogical, ethical, and technical challenges associated with integrating emerging technologies into education. In an era of rapid digital transformations, it is imperative to ensure that Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenGen AI) not only preserves the essence of human learning but enhances it by fostering authenticity, personalization, and inclusion.

This Ethical Code aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice by providing implementation tools that address the needs of the main stakeholders in the school community: students, teachers, and school administrators, while also recognizing the crucial role of families and the broader educational community. The primary goal is to promote responsible Gen AI use that preserves the value of human relationships and supports the development of critical and creative skills. This requires an ethical approach that can prevent the risks of dehumanization, systemic bias, and technological dependence, ensuring a balance between innovation and well-established educational values. Above all, it aims to build trust so that this powerful technology is always used fairly and for the common good.

Specifically, this document highlights how Gen AI can act as a catalyst for authentic and meaningful learning. The adoption of GenGen AI should never be reduced to a mere tool for bureaucratic efficiency or technical facilitation. Instead, it must be conceived as an enabler of more personalized, equitable, and inclusive educational experiences.

To achieve this, the Code provides concrete guidelines structured on two fundamental levels:

- A practical level, focused on the management and application of Gen AI in schools.
- A reflective level, aimed at promoting a culture of critical and conscious technology use.

The integration of Gen AI into teaching and administrative practices must be accompanied by ongoing reflection on how these innovations impact pedagogical dynamics, cognitive processes, and interpersonal relationships.

This responsibility is shared among all members of the school community:

- Teachers must guide the integration of Gen AI as a support tool rather than an end goal, fostering intellectual autonomy and critical thinking in students.
- Students must be educated to use Gen AI ethically and responsibly, recognizing the limitations of technological tools while preserving the originality of their own thinking – a process in which families play a crucial and ongoing role.
- School administrators must establish the organizational and training conditions necessary to support this transition.

Ultimately, this Ethical Code aims to support an Gen AI-driven educational approach that is both dynamic and deeply rooted in fundamental educational values. It promotes open and continuous dialogue between technology and pedagogy, encouraging a responsible evolution of schools in alignment with the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. The goal is to prepare future generations to navigate an increasingly complex and interconnected world, equipping them with humanistic, technological, and critical skills.

Core Values

Humanization of Learning

- Ensure that interaction with Gen AI does not replace the human relationship between teachers and students but rather enhances it.

- Support the development of social-emotional skills, fostering dialogue and direct interaction between students and teachers.
- Ensure that Gen AI is used to personalize the educational experience, while keeping the teacher at the center as a guide and learning mediator, and the student as the irreplaceable protagonist of their own learning process.

Honesty and Transparency

- Explicitly declare the use of generative Gen AI in all produced work.
- Provide detailed explanations of how and when Gen AI is used, ensuring clarity for all stakeholders involved.
- Maintain transparency with students, families, and other members of the school community.

Authenticity of Learning

- Safeguard the originality of students' thinking and work, ensuring that Gen AI does not undermine the intrinsic value of personal learning.
- Use Gen AI solely as a support and enhancement tool, rather than a substitute for individual cognitive processes.
- Promote and value independent creative processes, ensuring that Gen AI's influence is clearly distinguished from human contributions.

Equity and Inclusion

- Ensure fair and non-discriminatory access to Gen AI tools, considering students' diverse socioeconomic conditions.
- Bridge the digital divide through inclusive technology policies and by providing appropriate resources for all learners.
- Respect different learning needs, ensuring that Gen AI genuinely supports the inclusion of all students.

Practices to Avoid

Plagiarism and Dishonesty

- Presenting Gen AI-generated content as one's own without explicitly disclosing its use.

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- Using Gen AI to bypass the learning process, thereby hindering the development of personal skills.
- Misrepresenting academic performance by using Gen AI without disclosure in assessments.

Improper Use

- Generating discriminatory, violent, or harmful content using Gen AI.
- Sharing personal data with Gen AI systems without informed consent from the individuals involved.
- Using Gen AI for non-educational purposes that are irrelevant to learning objectives.

Declaration of Adoption of the Code

The School Community Commits to:

Adoption of the Code

- Respect and enforce this ethical code, raising awareness of the importance of responsible Gen AI use.
- Promptly report any violations of the code, fostering a climate of trust, accountability, and continuous improvement.
- Actively contribute to the updating and refinement of Gen AI usage practices in line with technological and educational advancements.
- Promote a culture of ethical Gen AI use, with a focus on meaningful learning and the development of critical skills.

Skill Development

- Encourage critical thinking and independent judgment, teaching students to evaluate Gen AI-generated content with discernment.
- Teach source verification, developing students' ability to identify and confirm the reliability of information.
- Enhance analysis and synthesis skills, ensuring that Gen AI is used to augment cognitive abilities rather than replace them.

Community Protection

- Protect privacy and individual dignity, preventing the collection and misuse of personal data.
- Create and maintain an inclusive and safe learning environment, where every student feels respected and valued.
- Promote ethical collaboration, encouraging a culture of shared responsibility and transparency in the use of technology.

Commitments of the School Community

For Teachers

- Use Gen AI to enhance and humanize teaching, avoiding the complete replacement of direct interaction with students.
- Verify the validity and reliability of Gen AI-generated content, critically assessing its relevance and accuracy.
- Educate students on critical and responsible Gen AI use, fostering their ability to analyze and reflect on Gen AI-generated materials.
- Adopt fair and transparent evaluation criteria, considering declared Gen AI use and clearly distinguishing human contributions from automated ones.

For Students

- Clearly and transparently declare Gen AI use in their work, specifying the parts of the project where Gen AI was involved.
- Use Gen AI as a tool to support comprehension and concept elaboration, ensuring it does not replace personal learning processes.
- Preserve their own voice and creativity, ensuring that their original contributions remain dominant over Gen AI-generated content.
- Carefully verify information obtained from Gen AI, using reliable sources to confirm its accuracy.

For the School

- Provide clear and detailed guidelines on Gen AI usage, defining appropriate protocols for different educational contexts.

- Ensure adequate and ongoing training for both teachers and students on the responsible use of Gen AI tools.
- Protect users' privacy and personal data, implementing strict security measures to prevent misuse of information.
- Monitor and regularly update Gen AI usage practices in schools, adapting them to regulatory and technological developments.

Examples of Applying the Ethical Code

1. Scenarios of Proper Gen AI Use

In the Classroom

Guided Brainstorming

- **Scenario:** Students use Gen AI to generate initial ideas for a project.
- **Proper Use:** "I used ChatGPT (chat link) to get initial ideas, which I then personally developed to create my project."
- **Example:** Collecting ideas for an essay in literature, followed by original development based on personal reflections.

Concept Simplification

- **Scenario:** Using Gen AI to simplify complex concepts.
- **Proper Use:** "I asked Gen AI to explain the theorem in simplified terms to help with my understanding."
- **Example:** Requesting alternative explanations for a physics concept to improve comprehension.

Source Verification

- **Scenario:** Using Gen AI to identify sources of information.
- **Proper Use:** "Gen AI suggested sources that I later verified using a digital library."
- **Example:** Researching bibliographic references for a history paper and then confirming their reliability.

For Teachers

Personalized Teaching

- **Scenario:** Customizing learning materials to accommodate different learning styles.

- **Proper Use:** Using Gen AI to generate alternative versions of an explanation, tailored to students' diverse preferences and needs.
- **Example:** Creating differentiated worksheets based on students' comprehension levels.

Constructive Feedback

- **Scenario:** Using Gen AI to support the formulation of constructive feedback.
- **Proper Use:** Using Gen AI to suggest different feedback approaches, which are then adapted to meet the specific needs of students.
- **Example:** Generating draft comments for assignments to enhance students' learning paths.

2. Scenarios of Improper Gen AI Use

To Avoid

Disguised Plagiarism

- **Scenario:** Writing a research paper.
- **Improper Use:** Presenting Gen AI-generated text as one's own work.
- **Correct Alternative:** Using Gen AI only for planning and idea development, then personally composing the content.

Bypassing Learning

- **Scenario:** Using Gen AI to solve math exercises.
- **Improper Use:** Copying solutions without understanding the underlying process.
- **Correct Alternative:** Asking Gen AI to explain the steps to gain a deeper understanding of the problem-solving process.

3. Examples of Best Practices

For Assessment

In-Class Assignments

- **Preliminary Declaration:** Students must specify if and how they will use Gen AI.
- **Process Documentation:** Keep a record of interactions with Gen AI.

- **Critical Reflection:** Explain how Gen AI supported the learning process, highlighting personal contributions.

For Collaboration

Group Projects

- **Clear Roles:** Define who manages Gen AI interactions.
- **Transparency:** Share Gen AI-generated queries with the group.
- **Collective Synthesis:** Jointly develop Gen AI-generated content, integrating Gen AI contributions with collective work.

4. Usage Protocols

During Study

- Formulate clear and specific questions.
- Verify Gen AI-generated responses through other reliable sources.
- Rework Gen AI-provided information independently.
- Document the learning process, specifying Gen AI interactions.

During Production

- Carefully plan the work before using Gen AI.
- Use Gen AI for specific aspects, maintaining creative control over the project.
- Integrate Gen AI contributions coherently and originally with personal work.
- Explicitly cite Gen AI usage in the final presentation, indicating its role in the process.

5. Ethical Compliance Checklist

For every use of Gen AI, ask yourself:

- Have I explicitly declared my use of Gen AI?
- Does my Gen AI usage truly enhance and humanize the learning process?
- Have I verified the accuracy of the information obtained?
- Have I preserved my own voice and original contribution?
- Can I explain the creation process, including Gen AI's role?
- Have I respected the privacy and dignity of all involved?



These practical examples provide a concrete guide for the daily application of the ethical code, helping the school community navigate the ethical and pedagogical challenges of generative Gen AI in education.

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