





PeerSphere



Peer to Peer

AI in the classroom

On Saturday 16th March 2024, 35+ teachers gathered to discuss ideas and develop professionally through community. This short summary shares their main ideas, takeaways and resources for other educators.



It's safe to say that the launch of ChatGPT on the 30th November 2022 changed everything. Since then, society, innovation, work, governance and education have undergone significant changes and this seismic transition is still underway.

Why mention this?

Because Peer-to-Peer in Beijing gave space for educators to grapple with the two key questions that AI brings:

1. What do we do right now?

How can they best learn about how AI works (and when it doesn't), how can AI be responsibly used by students and staff, and what immediate policies can be put in place to manage usage and create shared approaches?

2. What do we do next?

How to support students and teachers to be AI natives, schools to embed AI fully into their operations, and how best to engage and understand other stakeholders such as curriculum providers, exam boards, university admission and employers who will also adapt and change?

A good education has always needed to prepare young people for the rest of their lives. That has not changed. But what that future looks like has.

Thank you everyone for contributing to the discussion.

[100% written by a human]

Applying UNESCO's GenAI guide to International Schools

UNESCO's Guidance on GenAI provides useful frameworks & a starting point for international schools. Below is an overview of UNESCO's stance on using GenAI in education.

Towards a human-centered approach to the use of generative AI

Publicly available generative AI (GenAI) tools are rapidly emerging, and the release of iterative versions is outpacing the adaptation of national regulatory frameworks. The absence of national regulations on GenAI in most countries leaves the data privacy of users unprotected and educational institutions largely unprepared to validate the tools.

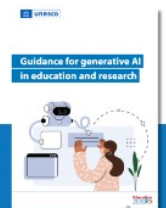
Based on a humanistic vision, UNESCO proposes key steps to the regulation of GenAI tool, including mandating the protection of data privacy, and setting an age limit for the independent conversations with GenAI platforms. To guide the proper use of the tools in education and research, UNESCO proposes a human-agent and age-appropriate approach to the ethical validation and pedagogical design processes.

A link to UNESCO's guide:

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000386693>

TOWARDS A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE USE OF GENERATIVE AI IN EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Regulating GenAI to harness the potential benefits for education & research requires the development of appropriate policies.



An illustration of two people, a man on the left and a woman on the right, standing and talking. The man is wearing a light-colored jacket and blue pants, and the woman is wearing a purple top and dark pants. They are both smiling and looking at each other.

Top Ten Takeaways Ranked!

What did P2P teachers find most valuable? We've taken all 75+ takeaways, grouped them by frequency, then summarized them here using the main ideas and inspiration teachers took with them from the day.

1. Educator Collaboration and Comfort

Many educators find comfort and confidence in exploring AI from basics and using it across their work in the classroom knowing others are also interested

2. Exploration of New Tools

Experimenting with new AI tools is no longer an add-in but a necessity for educators to enhance their teaching methods and keep up.

3. Effective AI Resource Utilisation

Understanding how to effectively use AI resources, beyond just being aware of its presence, but connecting it with your daily tasks, while ensuring security and proper usage, is crucial

4. Variety in AI Tools

Different AI tools have different strengths and help different classroom contexts. Being aware of and knowing how to use a variety is necessary.

5. Embracing AI

Educators recognize the inevitability of AI's presence and emphasise the importance of not fearing it but rather embracing its potential.

6. Focus on Critical Thinking

Critical thinking skills remain essential in education despite advancements in AI. Don't be afraid when children use these AI tools as long as they are in tandem with critical thinking.

7. Integration of AI in Education

Utilising AI to guide students, enhance engagement, and facilitate tasks like completing IAs and translating discussions.

8. Adapting to the AI Revolution

Policies and guidelines should be considered when integrating AI into classrooms amidst the evolving educational landscape and should be adapted to fit the reality of this revolution.

9. Collaborative Learning

Collaboration among educators, sharing experiences, and learning from each other's practices regarding AI in education is greatly beneficial

10. Incremental Implementation

Don't overwhelm staff and students with enforced AI implementation all at once but actively demonstrate how AI can do small tasks to make educators' jobs easier and give them time to try things out.

For School Leadership

Summarised from all of the responses, these were the top 5 areas that teachers felt schools and leaders could better support AI usage in schools, accompanied by potential solutions:

1. Regular Training Sessions on AI

Educators emphasise the need for ongoing training sessions to keep up with AI advancements and effectively integrate them into teaching practices.

Example: Organise monthly workshops starting from the basics, introducing tools and then regularly checking-in on how teachers have found them.

2. More Professional Development Opportunities

Teachers express the need for more PD sessions focused on AI, providing them with resources, examples, and guidance on implementing AI tools in the classroom.

Example: Host quarterly PD workshops specifically dedicated to exploring AI tools and strategies for specific subjects.

3. Encourage Experimentation and Peer-Support

Educators suggest creating a supportive environment where teachers can experiment with AI tools and share their experiences with peers.

Example: Establish a teacher-led AI innovation group where educators can collaborate, share ideas, and provide feedback on AI implementation.

4. Policy Development and Guidelines

There is a call for the development of clear standards and guidelines for AI usage in different educational contexts, ensuring responsible and effective integration.

Example: Collaborate with educational experts to draft comprehensive AI usage policies tailored to specific age groups and subjects.

5. Allocate Budget for AI Integration

Educators stress the importance of allocating financial resources to explore and implement various AI tools effectively.

Example: Set aside a budget specifically designated for purchasing AI software licenses, attending AI conferences, and conducting AI-related research and development projects.





Breakout Session 1:

Teacher Superpowers

How can GenAI tools enhance teachers' work lives through efficiency, personalisation and simply getting things done? In this session, teachers collaborated on AI tools and workflows. This breakout session focused on resource sharing and discussions of best-case use from their own experience.

1. Recommended resources and uses

POE

"A great resource for email writing, newsletter blurbs, but then needs to be run through Grammarly (a grammar-checker)!"

"Poe for you and students. Accessible through Hong Kong servers, unlike OpenAI"

Magic SchoolAI

"The LLM has lots of different tools to help with planning, teaching, and other admin responsibilities"

"Having students think of probing questions for Harkness discussions using SchoolAI as a thought partner is really helpful"

"Within magic school, there is magic student - students can interact with a chat bot that could help them reflect on a particular topic or assessment done"

Twee

"A great tool for ELA teachers with activities like 'Fill in the Gap', summarising a video, creating texts based on topic and level. Plus, you can save it as a PDF"

Prezi

"Prezi is a tool that lets you create presentations with just an outline. It is a helpful platform for making engaging and visually appealing presentations"

PopAI

"The fastest AI PDF reader. It can read, cite, and summarise PDF files for you"

2. Addressing diverse learning needs

"DIFFIT! It can generate different levels of differentiation (UDL)"

"Curipod has an emphasis on SEL check ins"

3. For maths classes

"Magic School can be used to create math story word problems and review them"

"You could create a bot for the students to choose the right formula and choose the best method to solve a problem"

4. Fostering collaborative learning

"You could generate prompts together, for example creating a song on Suno.AI"





Breakout Session 2 AI with Students

In this session, teachers discussed how they can use AI safely and successfully with students, in which circumstances is AI appropriate and inappropriate, as well as, discussing the safest tools across various ages.

1. Provide resources

Offer online courses and tutorials tailored to students' comprehension levels, such as the Brilliant course on LLMs.

2. Ensure proper guidance

Seek basic tutorials and guides for AI tools to equip educators with the knowledge needed to guide students effectively. Know the tool in-depth yourself before sharing the resource.

3. Promote responsible use

Share resources like guides for citing AI to instil responsible behaviour and ethical considerations when engaging with AI. Model AI usage to your students.

4. Prioritise privacy and protection

Implement measures to safeguard children's privacy, such as obtaining parental consent for AI chatbot usage and utilizing platforms like Common Sense Media for tool evaluation.

5. Utilize feedback platforms

Consider using resources like Common Sense Media to gather feedback and evaluations of tools regarding their appropriateness and safety for students.

6. Obtain parental consent

Ensure compliance with regulations such as obtaining parental permission for students under 13 before using AI chatbots, addressing challenges that may arise from unresponsive parents.

7. Collaborative approach and hopeful outlook

Teamwork is required to keep up with the multitude of AI tools available. There is a need to teach students how to use these tools effectively and advocate for a positive attitude towards AI integration in education, encouraging experimentation and productive use of saved time through AI adoption.

"It's important not to hide as a response to overwhelm. Take the time to try things when you can"

Breakout Session 3: AI for Inclusion & Multilingual Learners

This session aimed to answer questions of how AI tools might support and enhance inclusion and multilingualism. Discussions covered how these tools may enhance teaching and learning but also have potential limitations for schools' diverse communities.

1. Assessment

AI can be used to enhance assessment processes, including providing feedback, peer editing, and formative assessments. These tools aid in simplifying complex texts, generating prompts, and assisting with citation, ultimately supporting students in refining their writing and critical thinking skills.

2. AI in EAL

AI can be used by students to simplify texts, and aid teachers in providing personalised support. However, AI should be integrated cautiously to ensure that it enhances, rather than replaces, authentic language learning experiences for EAL learners.

3. Consideration of Privacy and Protection

Policy and guidelines in schools when implementing and encouraging AI, is an utmost necessity to ensure ethical usage and compliance with legal age requirements, especially regarding data privacy and security.

4. Access

Not all GenAI is accessible to everyone especially to all general public or in different regions and that makes it harder for everyone to be able to learn equitably. Knowing the tools that are more regional is helpful: for example Baidu & Alibaba also have their own models, accessible without a VPN.

"Debates about teaching AI seem similar to the debate about cursive writing and whether we should still teach it. How do we prepare students for their future and what their future is going to look like?"

"Often in class there are texts that are too hard for our students to comprehend. Being able to lower the complexity of the text for students is really helpful. However, I'm still cautious having student use because I want AI to be used for thinking rather than just translating"



Thank You to our Hosts!

"Thank you for bringing us from all different areas and sharing your wonderful insights and practice"

"Thank you for helping me connect with like-minded peers"

"Thanks for organizing this event. What a great opportunity to meet other teachers facing same challenges and new opportunities"

"You guys are awesome. Thanks so much"

"THE COOKIES WERE SO YUMMY"

"Such a pleasure meeting members of the WAB team and to see them in action. Such an awesome conference, totally worth coming on a Saturday. Please host more!!!"

"Thanks, WAB! Great to learn about AI! You are serving the international school community!"

"Thanks WAB team for putting in the time to host and prep. Great provocations and environment"

"Thank you for this learning opportunity for teachers"



www.wab.edu



PeerSphere

Tomorrow calls for new collaborations and connections.

Connect to Peers And learn together

We build thriving communities for education professionals that want to collaborate and solve meaningful problems related to their role.

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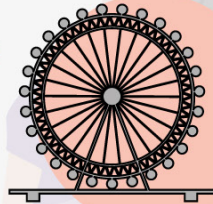
Peer to Peer

Interactive Peer Sharing and Learning for all School Staff

A participant-driven gathering of educators providing the opportunity to connect in-person, share practices, and explore common professional inquiries.



Shanghai
Jan 20
Multi-Lingual Learners



Tianjin
Feb 24
Teacher Wellbeing



Beijing
Mar 16
AI in the Classroom



Nanjing
May 18
Student Agency



Hangzhou
Apr 25
Diversifying Leadership



Chengdu
June 8
Intercultural Relationships



Guangzhou
Sept 7
First 90 Days for Leaders



Wuhan or Fuzhou
Oct 19
Assessment for Learning



Shenzhen
Dec 7
DEI & Recruitment



Ningbo
Nov 9
Pastoral Care

All times and locations will be shared closer to the date

Scan the QR for more information!



Free for all PeerSphere members and Venture Subscribers
300 RMB per participant

Useful Resources

Below are the six most-mentioned resources used by teachers

Magic School

A platform where teachers can create interactive lessons and assignments, while students can receive personalized prompts and feedback from AI-powered chatbots, enhancing engagement and supporting individualized learning experiences.

ChatGPT

Teachers can employ ChatGPT to support students in writing tasks by generating prompts, providing feedback, and facilitating peer editing sessions. Students can interact with ChatGPT to receive guidance and suggestions, enhancing their writing skills and confidence.

Suno.ai

Teachers and students can use Suno.ai to compose custom songs related to educational topics, fostering creativity and providing an alternative method for reinforcing learning concepts through music.

SchoolAI

Teachers can leverage SchoolAI to streamline lesson planning by utilizing AI-powered bots to generate, organize, and optimize teaching materials. This allows educators to focus more on instructional design and personalized student support.

POE

Teachers can utilize Poe to analyse images and generate educational content such as worksheets and discussion questions based on visual stimuli. Students can explore and analyze images collaboratively, fostering critical thinking and visual literacy skills.

Twee.com

Teachers can use Twee.com to create interactive articles with fill-in-the-blank exercises, encouraging active reading and comprehension among students. Students can engage with the content interactively, reinforcing understanding through hands-on practice.

Final Thought

“It was great to gather educators from Beijing and far beyond to share learning, ideas and resources about the dynamic world of AI in Education. From conversations to demo-slams, the generosity and collaborative-mindedness of the participants was fulfilling and enriching. Special thanks to our guest co-hosts and for all who shared their knowledge”

Stephen Taylor | Host of P2P Beijing



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