Getting started with AI in the Classroom

Transcription: Video 2

Interviewees

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An introduction to AI in education

Niall

AI is like a sophisticated computer programme that can learn from information, similar to how humans learn from experience.

Think of it as a digital tool that can spot patterns, make predictions, and create new content based on what it has learnt.

Martina

AI represents a set of technologies that enable computers to do a lot of different tasks and perform various functions. One of these technologies is generative AI. Generative AI is different because it can generate and produce text, images, and videos.

Niall

Just as a child learns to recognise cats by seeing many pictures of cats, AI can learn to identify images after analysing thousands of examples. Similarly, just as a student learns to write essays by studying examples, AI can learn to generate text by analysing vast amounts of writing.

The key difference is that AI follows precise mathematical rules rather than having a proper understanding or consciousness.

Martina

One of the main challenges with generative AI, apart from ethical concerns, is understanding the short- and long-term effects of this technology on learning and teaching.

Niall

Additionally, AI systems may carry biases from the training data, so students need to learn to evaluate and question the responses they receive. This is all part of AI literacy.

The goal should be to use AI as a support tool, not a replacement for learning and understanding.

Martina

We know that certain knowledge and skills, once offloaded to another system or person, may be lost. This is particularly interesting in the context of generative AI, as we need to think carefully about what we are offloading.

Niall

It is important to recognise that AI is a tool that can support learning and productivity when used responsibly, much like calculators and computers have become accepted educational tools.

Martina

We should use these technologies deliberately, meaning we should know why and when we are using them.

Niall

The goal is to ensure AI enhances rather than replaces human-led teaching, creating a balanced approach that prepares students for a future where AI will be as commonplace as computers are today.