Woodland Academy Trust






WOODLAND ACADEMY TRUST

AI STRATEGY

2024-2025






Ignite the spark, reveal the champion

Why do we need an AI strategy?

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming industries globally, and education is no exception. As a multi-academy trust dedicated to fostering innovation and excellence across our primary schools, it is essential that we proactively engage with AI to harness its potential. The integration of AI in education offers a unique opportunity to enhance teaching, streamline administrative tasks, and provide personalised learning experiences that cater to the diverse needs of our pupils.

An AI strategy is crucial to ensure that we approach these changes thoughtfully and responsibly. By developing a comprehensive plan, we can guide the implementation of AI tools in ways that align with our educational vision, empower our staff, and ultimately improve outcomes for every pupil. Moreover, this strategy will allow us to address potential challenges, such as data privacy, ethical considerations, and the upskilling of our workforce, ensuring that AI supports rather than disrupts the essential human elements of education.

In this rapidly evolving landscape, a well-articulated AI strategy will position our schools to lead, innovate, and prepare our pupils for a future where AI will play an increasingly central role in society.

Vision

To harness the power of AI in creating personalised, innovative, and efficient educational experiences that enhance teaching, streamline operations, and empower every pupil to reach their full potential.

AI Education for Pupils

As part of our commitment to preparing pupils for a future where AI plays a pivotal role, we integrate AI education across all year groups within our computing curriculum. This includes:

- **Understanding AI**: Pupils are introduced to the concept of AI, its applications in everyday life, and its potential impact on society.
- **How AI Works**: We teach pupils the basic principles of how AI systems function, such as machine learning, pattern recognition, and data use.

- **Safe and Responsible Use**: Pupils are educated on how to engage with AI technologies safely and responsibly, including considerations around data privacy, ethics, and digital well-being.
- **Practical Applications**: Throughout the curriculum, pupils explore how to use AI tools effectively in various contexts, promoting both creativity and problem-solving.

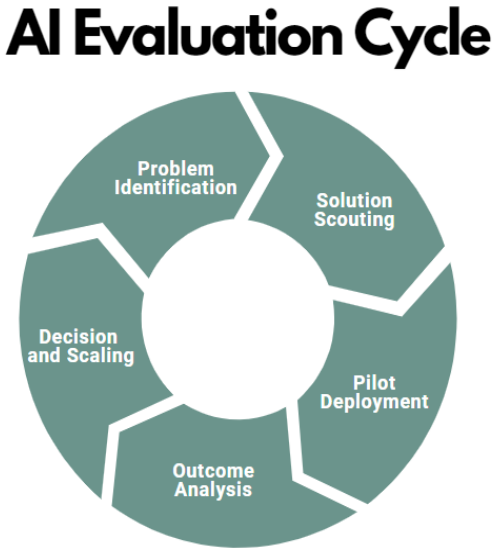
Approach

1. Focus on key challenges.

2. Introduce key tools to all stakeholders.

3. Strengthen the AI evaluation cycle-

- **Problem Identification**: Determine specific challenges or areas across the Trust that need improvement or optimisation.
- **Solution Scouting**: Research and identify existing AI applications or tools that are designed to address the identified problem.
- **Pilot Deployment**: Implement the AI solution in a controlled or small-scale setting, such as one school or classroom, to test its efficacy.
- **Outcome Analysis**: Evaluate the results of the pilot by measuring the impact on the identified problem, using qualitative and quantitative data.
- **Decision and Scaling**: Based on the pilot's success, decide whether to fully adopt the solution across the Trust or to explore other alternatives.



What challenges are we trying to solve?

1. Personalised education through adaptive learning and assessment.
2. Improved efficiencies across the organisation.
3. Identification of AI enablers.

1. Personalised education through adaptive learning and assessment

Each pupil learns differently, with different starting points, strengths, and interests. Teachers try their best to help every pupil, but it's hard to customise lessons and give detailed feedback to everyone all the time. Also, teachers spend a lot of time on everyday tasks that could be used to make learning even better for pupils. AI can help by giving pupils more personal feedback and freeing up teachers to focus on what really matters—helping children succeed.

Our aim is to provide more personalised learning and feedback for every pupil. This will be done by using tools to analyse pupils' work, giving real-time feedback, helping teachers understand each child's needs better. AI can suggest activities that match a pupil's strengths and interests while offering extra support where needed, identifying gaps in learning and supporting with the provision of activities to address this. Additionally, by automating some routine tasks, AI frees up more time for teachers to focus on teaching and interacting with pupils directly, enhancing their learning experiences. It can also be used to support:

- Accessibility
- Creation of resources
- Tutoring support

Key benefits of this include:

- **Customised Learning Journeys**: AI tailors learning content and pace to suit each pupil's abilities, ensuring the right balance of support and challenge.
- **Immediate Feedback**: AI offers instant responses to pupil work, allowing for quick adjustments and deeper learning.
- **Increased Pupil Engagement**: By aligning tasks with individual needs, AI keeps pupils more motivated.

- **Teacher Efficiency**: Automating routine tasks with AI enables teachers to focus more on personalised instruction and pupil interaction, using data-driven insights to more effectively guide pupil progress.

2. Improved efficiencies across the organisation

Improving efficiencies across the organisation using AI is crucial for streamlining processes, reducing administrative burdens, and enhancing decision-making. By automating routine tasks and leveraging data-driven insights, AI enables staff to focus on more impactful work. This leads to better use of resources, increased accuracy, and greater scalability, ultimately improving performance and outcomes for both pupils and staff.

Our aim is to ensure that the organisation is as efficient as it can be, ensuring value for money and supporting improved outcomes. This will be done by reducing manual workloads, improving accuracy, and enabling smarter resource allocation, ensuring we operate more efficiently across all departments. It can specifically be used to support:

- HR processes
- Facilities management
- Admissions processes
- Data analytics

Key benefits of this include:

- **Streamlined Processes**: AI automates routine tasks, saving time and reducing administrative burdens.
- **Improved Decision-Making**: Data-driven insights allow for more informed, strategic decisions across departments.
- **Resource Optimisation**: AI ensures smarter allocation of resources, reducing waste and improving value for money.
- **Increased Accuracy**: Automation reduces human error, particularly in HR, facilities management, admissions, and data analysis, leading to more reliable outcomes.
- **Scalability**: AI enables the organisation to expand without significantly increasing costs or effort.

3. Identification of AI enablers

Identifying AI enablers, such as staff with particular strengths in AI, both within and outside the Trust, is important for maximising expertise and ensuring effective AI integration. These individuals can act as champions, driving innovation and collaboration. They also play a critical role in mentoring and upskilling others, fostering a culture of AI proficiency. By leveraging these enablers, the Trust can identify new opportunities, enhance AI adoption, and ensure a smoother, more successful implementation of AI initiatives.

Our aim is to identify members of staff at all levels who are proficient in the use of different AI tools and share this widely. We will do this through a variety of methods including conducting surveys and self-assessments to allow staff to share their AI expertise. We will also evaluate and review how AI tools are used across different areas within the Trust, and share practice, also collaborating with external specialists.

Key benefits of this include:

- **Fostering Collaboration**: They can act as bridges between classes, schools and Trust services, improving communication and collaboration.
- **Mentorship and Upskilling**: These individuals can train and support other staff, raising overall AI competency across the Trust.
- **Innovation**: AI enablers can spot new opportunities for using AI, driving innovation and improvements.
- **Efficiency**: With key people identified, AI projects can be rolled out more efficiently and successfully.

How will we introduce key tools to all stakeholders?

This will be done through a comprehensive training and communication strategy, focusing on one key tool at a time. We will:

1. **Identify Tools**: Conduct research and consultations to select the most relevant AI applications for identified needs, using the AI evaluation cycle, using pilots as necessary.
2. **Introductory Sessions**: Organise workshops for different stakeholders to explain the purpose and benefits of the AI tools.
3. **Demonstrations**: Provide practical demonstrations of how the applications work in different year groups or contexts.
4. **Hands-On Training**: Offer training sessions to ensure relevant stakeholders can use the tools effectively.

5. **Digital Resources**: Develop guides, FAQs, and tutorials for ongoing reference.
6. **Ongoing Support**: Using the identified AI enablers, continued assistance will be in place.
7. **Regular Reviews**: Assess the effectiveness and make improvements based on feedback and a wide set of data.

The AI evaluation cycle will be used throughout addressing the identified challenges and introducing the key tools to stakeholders. It is an integral part of the strategy, ensuring a structured, iterative approach to improvement.

Next steps: Due to the rapidly changing AI landscape, strategic actions will be identified annually. During 2024/2025 our aims are to: