

GUIDANCE FOR GENERATIVE AI

What is Generative AI?

Generative AI refers to deep-learning models that can generate high-quality text, images, and other content based on the data they were trained on. If they are limited to text interaction, they are sometimes referred to as a Chatbot.

What is an AI Chatbot?

AI chatbots are a subset of Generative AI programs that can talk with you using text or voice to answer questions, create documents and images, and much more.

What are the risks of using Generative AI?

While Generative AI has a variety of useful applications, caution should be exercised. Keep the following in mind when using a Generative AI application, such as ChatGPT.

- **Overtrust in AI provided information:** AI provides the answers to our questions almost instantly, and speaks with authority on every subject. However, AI is sometimes prone to **hallucinations**, which occurs when a generative AI model produces confident-sounding, plausible, but ultimately false, nonsensical, or fabricated information, such as made-up facts, sources, or events. This occurs because it is predicting likely word sequences from its training data rather than accessing verified knowledge, acting like it is seeing or saying things that are not real.
- **Bias reinforcement:** Generative AI technologies generate responses based on the data they have been trained on – and therefore can serve to strengthen and reinforce certain biases. For example, if the data that the AI was trained on was rooted in information that goes against traditional Christian values, it may provide biased answers on such issues as abortion or evolution.
- **Degraded Social Skills:** We develop social etiquette through interactions with others who model appropriate behavior. AI does not always follow social norms, and users may pick up bad habits and impolite language.

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- **Underdevelopment of foundational learning skills:** Relying on AI too early in the learning and study process can potentially hinder the development of learning and study skills. For AI to be a valuable tool, it should not merely provide easy answers, but rather it should guide inquiry and discovery.

- **Plagiarism or academic dishonesty:** Generative AI can create essays, solve math problems, or help with creative writing, which raises concerns about plagiarism. Kids may rely on generative AI to complete projects without fully understanding the material.

- **Inappropriate content:** Even with safeguards, AI tools can still produce inappropriate or harmful content

What Can You Do?

- **Understand the Importance of AI Literacy:** AI literacy is the ability to recognize and use AI technologies with a basic understanding of actual capabilities, benefits and risks. Recognize that AI is merely a tool, not an all-knowing oracle of information.

- **Do not use AI as a shortcut or replacement for Bible study:** When you study the Bible, you are communing with God, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you into the truth (John 16:13) and to teach you the (John 14:26). Using AI may provide a quick answer, but it may be inaccurate, and it will rob you of your time spent in the word of God.

- **Go on an AI "test drive" with your children:** Think of it like practicing driving before getting a license. Explore AI together to understand how it works. Help your kids safely navigate the roads of these tools by learning how AI can be used for homework, creative projects, or just for fun.

- **Understand how to write prompts:** Generative AI is not human, and does not have the context a real person has. How you phrase things makes a big difference. Good prompts result in better, more accurate responses.

Remember: We must practice discernment in all areas of life. Pray for wisdom, and keep the above information in mind when using generative AI.

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." - 1 Thessalonians 5:21

"The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going." - Proverbs 14:15

