



Artificial Intelligence and Education

AI (Artificial Intelligence) is new, stunning in its capabilities, and raises many questions, threats and opportunities – and education is right in the middle of the debate.

The Vision and Mission of the College can provide clarity in times of uncertainty, reminding us that MacKillop is “A learning environment where excellence in education is valued”.

Education is all about learning – we are not here just to learn, but to obtain excellence in learning.

“Learning is a consequence of thinking” - Emeritus professor David Perkins of Harvard’s School of Graduate Education.

If we are true to that Vision and Mission statement - valuing excellence in learning - then as a College we must value student thinking as the focus of all the work we do.

School tasks, including assessment tasks, are designed for students to learn by undertaking and applying a range of thinking skills. This effort in thinking, and ensuing learning, is the true value of student work and the focus of assessment. The ‘academic voice’ students produce – their unique style - is a window into their thinking.

This means that the use of AI tools (and even writing tools that are increasingly incorporating AI powered generative text) puts students at risk of misrepresenting their thinking (and learning) and thus puts them at risk of academic misconduct in assessment. In addition, these tools, (as powerful, innovative and intriguing as they are) can be a shortcut to thinking, and thus bypass the thing we value most – the learning.

The world of AI has put rapid production of ‘finished products’ at the click of a button. However, in education the real value, the student growth, comes from the rigour of the academic journey rather than the destination.

At MacKillop, we are embracing this challenge as we modify our assessment policy and procedures moving forward. We will continue to build a learning environment where the students can understand and value the academic journey and an encouraging environment where they have opportunity, and incentive to develop, refine and empower confidence in their own voice.

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