Children's use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

This leaflet tells you about our research and gives you our contact details in case you have any questions!

What is this project about?

In our everyday lives, we use smart technologies that can create new things, like pictures, stories, or even music. This is called generative artificial intelligence or GenAI. It helps make videos, games, and apps more fun by creating things just for us, like new levels in a game or cool filters for photos.

In our project, we want to talk to **children and young people aged 13 to 17 years who have some experience with GenAI**. We want to know:
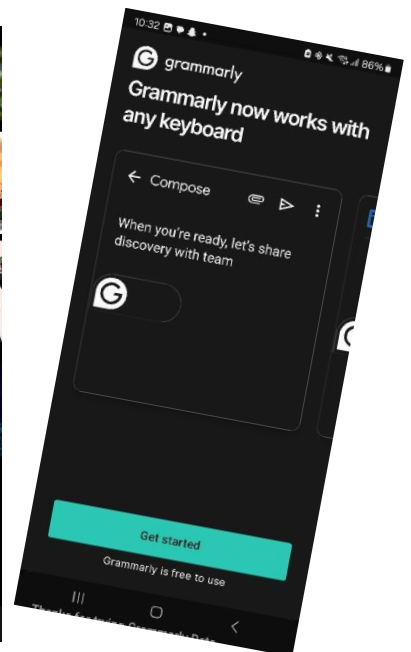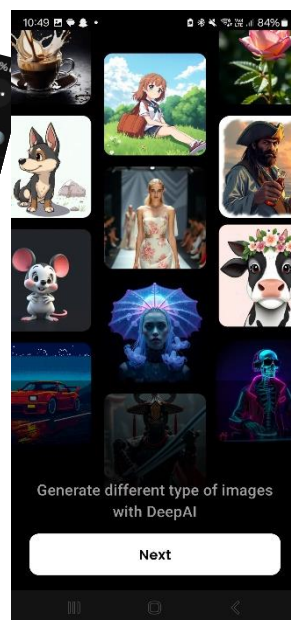
- How have you used GenAI (like chatbots, AI that crates images, music, games)?
- What are the good and bad things about GenAI? What might GenAI look like in the future?
- What rules would you like to see for creating GenAI and protecting young people?

Have I used GenAI?

If you are not sure if you have used GenAI, here are some examples!

GenAI is like a super-smart robot helper that can make new things, such as pictures, stories, songs, and even videos when you give it instructions. For instance, it can draw a picture if you describe it, write a story if you give it an idea, or make a song that sounds like your favourite music. Some common examples of GenAI are:

- Ada Health
- Character AI
- Chat GPT
- Claude
- Copilot
- Deep Ai

- Futurepedia
- Gemini
- Grammarly
- Leonardo
- Llama
- Meta AI

- My AI on Snapchat
- Perplexity
- Roblox
- Zero GPT

We will be talking to children in several countries across the world about their experiences. In the UK, we are funded by the Digital Futures for Children centre (DFC). The research was approved by the Ethics Committee of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE, ref 439180).

What will happen if you take part?

We would like to talk to you about your thoughts and experiences of using GenAI. There are no right or wrong answers – we are just very interested in hearing about your experiences.

Our conversations will take about an hour and will be friendly, confidential and anonymous. We won't tell your carers or teachers what you have told us. When we publish the findings or store your answers in an archive, we will remove your name, any personal information, and the names of any people or places you mention. In this way, you can't be identified.

If you tell us anything that suggests you or somebody else are at an immediate risk of significant harm, we may need to get professional advice. We'll tell you if we feel we need to do this.

We can meet face-to-face at a place of your choice or talk to you online – whatever you prefer.

We might ask you to show us some of the GenAI apps that you have used. We will tell you if this is the case and you can choose if you want to do it.

You will receive a £15 Amazon voucher as a thank you for your participation.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is **completely voluntary**. There are no bad consequences for you if you decide not to take part in this study. If you decide to take part but change your mind later, you can leave the research and you will not have to explain why. It is absolutely fine if you feel that you don't want to take part in a specific activity or answer specific questions – you can just tell us, and we will move on.

Returning the consent form

If you agree to take part, please, fill in the consent form and ask your parent for permission and to sign at the bottom. Then return it to the research team.

Contacts and support

Prof Sonia Livingstone, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE): s.livingstone@lse.ac.uk

Dr Mariya Stoilova (LSE): m.stoilova@lse.ac.uk

If you need to talk to someone anonymously or get support:

Call 800 1111: free child helpline

Text 85258: 24/7 free text line for anyone

We also want to share some child rights resources with you!

Today, technology is all around us. Your rights offline now also apply online.

Here is some some important – and fun! – information about your rights in a digital world.

Animation about children's rights as research participants	https://bit.ly/childparticipant
Animation about children's rights in the digital age	https://bit.ly/rightsonline
My Rights Online resource for children and young people	https://bit.ly/your-rights-online