

V A Victorian Association for **T E** the Teaching of English

*Learning is not a problem to be solved; it's a process to be undertaken.*¹

VATE's vision of subject English is one of equity, inclusivity, robustness, creativity, responsiveness, and criticality. At VATE's core is collaboration and community.

VATE Council's position on AI.

- VATE's work is human driven and centred. VATE Council gives primacy to the 'inexhaustible (human) voice'² and values and respects human agency, autonomy, and creativity.
- VATE Council does not accept the forced inevitability of AI. VATE will interrogate the role and use of AI in English education, society, and democracy, and make informed, intentional, and ethical decisions vis-à-vis our engagement with AI.
- VATE does not support the automation of meaningful work and human dignity.
- VATE values and supports copyright. Copyright fuels creativity, encourages diversity, authenticity and inclusivity, promotes freedom of expression and supports a vibrant culture.
- VATE recognises intellectual property and copyright laws which protect authors, artists and their work, and enable VATE to continue to produce resources and publications. VATE values editorial care, collaboration and quality. As such, no part of this or any VATE publication may be used or reproduced in any manner for the purposes of training artificial intelligence technologies or systems, or for the mining of text and data.
- VATE remains concerned about the discriminatory impacts and unfair biases of AI on individuals, communities, and democracies. As such, VATE believes that AI companies have a duty of care to all citizens across the globe.
- VATE Council is committed to developing environmentally sustainable practices. We will discuss the ideological and environmental implications of AI when considering our engagement with any AI companies, products, and processes.
- Data privacy is an essential commitment to the VATE membership. We will put in place policies and processes to ensure member information continues to be protected and our IT systems remain secure.
- VATE will continue to draw on the individual and collective expertise of our community when developing our resources.
- VATE will be transparent about any engagement with and use of AI programs and processes. Any use of AI tools will be overseen by a human.
- VATE commits to supporting members in interrogating the impacts of AI on English teaching and learning, and on education more broadly, through research initiatives, professional learning, and advocacy.

Please note: All Council members, (legally titled 'responsible people'), have a duty to act with due care and diligence. All decisions need to be assessed vis-à-vis the benefits likely to flow to VATE and weigh this against reasonable/foreseeable risk (financial and non-financial).

¹ <https://www.publicbooks.org/four-frictions-or-how-to-resist-ai-in-education/>

² <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/1949/faulkner/speech/>