



University of Brighton

Kita Pilot General Information Sheet: PARENTS

Research Project: To what extent do AI-based marking and feedback tools reduce teachers' time spent on marking, without negatively impacting feedback quality or teachers' confidence?

Your school is participating in this research project exploring the effectiveness of artificial intelligence (AI)-based marking and feedback. You are receiving this information sheet because it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for your child/ren. Please take the time to read this information sheet. Talk to others about the study if you wish and contact the research team if anything is unclear.

What is the purpose of the study/project?

Your child's school is taking part in a pilot study of a new browser-based coding tool called Kita. The study aims to investigate how using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools can help with teaching and learning in secondary schools. The work is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and is being trialled in Computing classes in your child's school over about 3-4 weeks in June and July 2026.

Kita is a coding platform used for Computing lessons. It is a shared workspace where the teacher can see your child's code as they write it and monitor the class's progress. A main feature of Kita is its AI system, which helps the teacher give feedback. **Important:** The AI does not give feedback directly. Your child's teacher must check, edit, and approve all AI-generated feedback before it is sent to your child.

Researchers from the University of Brighton are evaluating the AI-based tool to find out if it reduces the time teachers spend on marking/feedback. We also want to know if it has an effect on the quality of teachers' feedback to students and teachers' confidence. We are also interested in the experience of using the tool – what is it like, from students' perspectives.

Why has your child been invited to take part in the pilot study?

Your child has been asked to take part because they are in a Computing class that is piloting Kita Education's AI-based tool. This will take place during a normal lesson, which will use Kita. Your child's teacher will be surveyed about their experiences of using the tool. Some children's classes will be observed by researchers and some children will be asked to take part in group discussions. If your child's class is involved in either of these activities, we will approach you **separately for your permission**. We will also ask your child for their permission to participate. Without these permissions, your child's involvement in the research will be limited to their participation in a single lesson using Kita.

What are the benefits and potential disadvantages of taking part?

There are no immediate benefits for anyone taking part in the research project, but the research findings will be written up as a research report, which will be publicly available and shared with schools that took part (without identifying individuals who took part). We will write up the findings for publication in an academic journal. We may also present results at education conferences.

What if I have a question or concern?

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Dr Catherine Aicken, Senior Research Fellow, c.aicken@brighton.ac.uk. Any concerns about the study should be directed to Prof Michael Jopling, m.jopling@brighton.ac.uk.