Sample Lesson Plan
AI Ethics and Sustainability for Primary School Students

Objective

Students will gain an understanding of what AI (Artificial Intelligence) is, how it operates, and how to ensure it is used ethically, focusing on fairness, privacy, accountability, and sustainability. They will explore ways AI can impact the environment and reflect on how AI can be both helpful and harmful.

Learning Areas

- Digital Literacy: Introduction to AI and its applications.
- Ethics: Understanding fairness, privacy, and responsibility in AI usage.
- Sustainability: Exploring how AI can help or harm the environment.
- Personal Development: Critical thinking about technology and its societal impact.

Year Level

Years 3-6, ages 8-12

Lesson Duration
45 minutes

Curriculum Alignment

Add your local curriculum and syllabus codes (e.g., Australian Curriculum, New Zealand Curriculum, United States Common Core, etc.)

Key Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students will:

1. Understand what AI is and how it helps people.
2. Learn about the importance of fairness and privacy in AI.
3. Recognise the importance of sustainability and the role AI plays in environmental protection.
4. Reflect on how to use AI responsibly in everyday life.

Slide 8: Responsibility

Responsibility means making sure AI is used for good things, not bad things. We want AI to help people, not make problems worse. For example, we shouldn't use AI to unfairly treat people or invade their privacy.

It's important to use AI in ways that make the world better and help everyone.

Ask the students: How can we use AI to help more people instead of causing harm?

Slide 9: Sustainability

Sustainability is about taking care of our planet while we use AI. Some AI systems need a lot of energy to work, which can harm the environment. We should try to find ways to use AI that won't use too much electricity or hurt nature.

For example, AI that helps monitor the weather or forests should not use so much energy that it harms the environment.

Ask the class: How can we help the planet while still using technology like computers and robots?

Slide 10: Case Study – Sustainability in AI Systems

Let's think about an AI that is used to help protect the environment. Imagine there's a computer program that watches forests to stop trees from being cut down. That's great, but what if the program uses too much energy and hurts the planet in another way?

We need to think about how to make this system more energy-friendly so it can help nature without causing more problems.

Ask the class: What can we do to make sure AI helps the planet without using too much energy?

Slide 11: Reflection Exercise

Let's take a moment to think about how AI is part of your life. Maybe you use a robot toy, or maybe you talk to Siri on a phone. How do you feel about AI, and what do you think is the most important thing we've talked about today? Is it fairness? Safety? Maybe protecting the planet?

Ask students to write or draw a picture of how AI helps them and what they think is the most important rule for using AI.

Slide 12: Conclusion

To wrap up, we've learned that AI is an amazing tool, but we have to use it carefully. We need to make sure it's fair, safe, and doesn't harm the environment. When you grow up, you'll be using AI even more, so it's important to think about how we can use it responsibly to help everyone.

Now, let's think about what ethical rule you will focus on next time you see AI in action. Will it be fairness, privacy, or maybe protecting the planet?