

The Everything Tool Problem: A Scoping Review of Empirical Research with Young People and Generative AI

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One tool, every context

General-purpose chatbots follow young people across school, home and friendship.

A single conversation can move from

- 🤔 homework question to
- 😞 emotional support to
- 🔍 web search in minutes.

This is the everything tool problem: a technology that crosses every boundary needs research that can cross those boundaries too.

The research isn't there yet

A review of English-language empirical studies of young people and generative AI published since the release of ChatGPT.

There were only **17**.

17/17 studied generative AI use in a single context (home or school)

- **7** were multi-session
- **2** were longitudinal (3 months, 1 year)

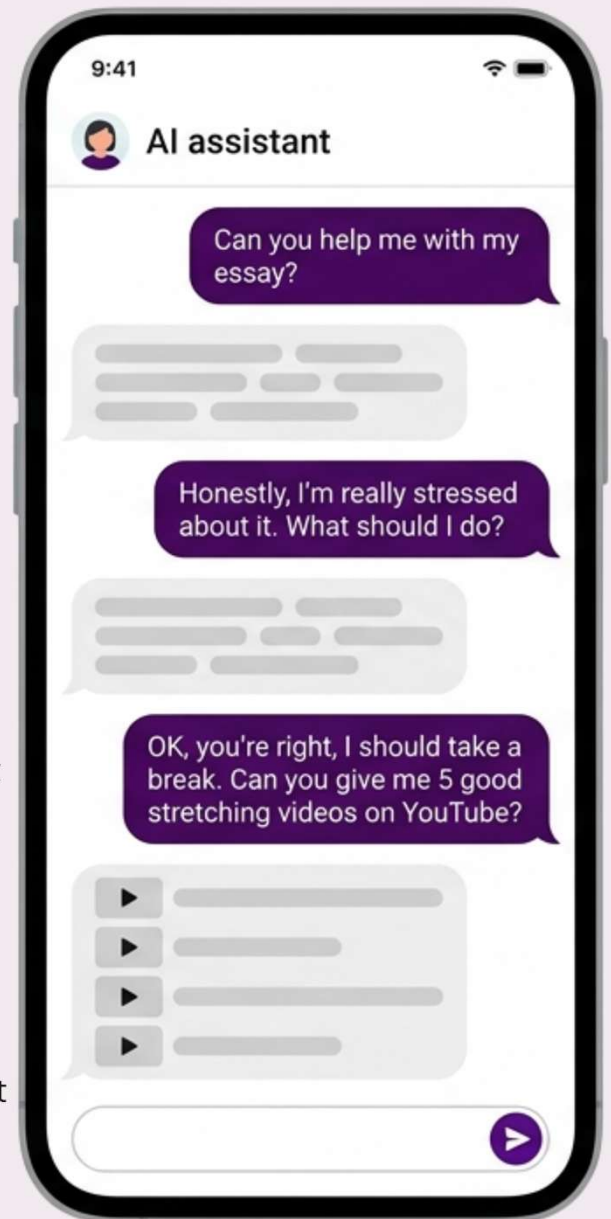
2/17 reported lived, AI-specific harms

- **Both** occurred in papers where young people were acting as co-researchers

13/17 were based in the United States

- **1** of those 13 considered the regulatory context
- All **4** papers from outside of the US considered the regulatory context

3/17 described the young people involved as co-researchers



Designing research that supports the wider context

Learning from the above, we are working to capture the wider contexts of generative AI use amongst young people in the UK.

Across settings

Using a range of qualitative methods at home, school and anywhere else of importance

Longitudinal

Working with young people for over a school year

Young person led

Young people will collect and analyse their own data to determine an outcome appropriate to them

Policy as evidence

International policy and media will be analysed and provided for young people to engage with