

LITERARY ESCAPE FESTIVAL AI & CREATIVE TRANSPARENCY POLICY

OUR APPROACH

Literary Escape Festival exists to celebrate creativity, storytelling, artistry, and independent creators. We want to create welcoming and inclusive events where readers, authors, artists, makers, and small creative businesses can share their work and connect with others.

At its heart, Literary Escape Festival is about real stories, handmade work, artistic expression, and the time, skill, and care that go into creating them.

We recognise that technology is changing quickly, including the growing use of AI-assisted features within creative software, design, and publishing tools. We hope this policy will both reflect these changes and help support and protect the human-created work within our festival and the livelihoods connected to it.

CREATIVE WORKS AT LITERARY ESCAPE FESTIVAL

Literary Escape Festival does not knowingly include fully or substantially AI-generated work.

Specifically, creators cannot include:

- **AI-generated books or written work, including use within non-book products**
- **Artwork, illustrations, designs, or creative products where generative AI was knowingly used to create the core imagery or artwork**

Notwithstanding the above, examples of acceptable AI-assisted use may include:

- spelling and grammar tools or features
- accessibility features
- formatting tools
- image enhancement or clean-up
- planning tools
- productivity tools

This policy primarily relates to the core creative works, products, and materials presented, sold, or promoted as part of participation within Literary Escape Festival.

INTENT & AWARENESS

We understand that many creators now use tools that include AI-assisted features, sometimes knowingly and sometimes without fully realising it. This may include removing the background from an author photo, using automated formatting tools, or improving image quality through software features that creators may not fully understand or control.

Because of this, the use of AI within creative work can sometimes be complicated, varied, and not always obvious or intentional.

The focus of this policy, and our wider approach, is on the knowing and intentional use of generative AI to create creative works.

COMMUNICATION & REVIEW

All contributing authors and creators will be asked to agree to this policy as part of the application process.

As a small independent festival, Literary Escape Festival relies significantly on honesty and self-declaration as part of this policy. While concerns raised regarding submitted work will be reviewed, we do not have the resources or capacity to independently investigate every creative process, tool, or asset used by contributors.

By agreeing to this policy as part of the application process, creators confirm that the information they provide is truthful and accurate to the best of their knowledge. Where work is later found to significantly conflict with this policy or to have been intentionally misrepresented, Literary Escape Festival reserves the right to withdraw participation from the event without refund.

Where concerns are raised regarding the inclusion of work, we would encourage individuals to contact us directly.

Where creators are uncertain whether their work aligns with this policy, we would encourage them to contact us for an open and honest conversation.

Literary Escape Festival can be contacted at:

admin@literaryescapeco.co.uk

TRANSITIONAL & OLDER WORKS

We recognise that many independent creators have been navigating rapidly changing tools, advice, and industry pressures over recent years, including increasing pressure across creative industries to adopt emerging AI technologies.

As a result, some creators may have older books, artwork, branding, or assets that were created using generative AI tools or services they may not choose to use in the same way today.

Additionally, some creators using third-party designers or services in good faith may only now be becoming aware of the role generative AI played in the creation of certain historic assets.

Literary Escape Festival understands that replacing older covers, branding, or existing assets may not always be financially realistic for independent creators and small businesses.

Where creators have concerns regarding older works or historic assets, we would encourage them to contact us directly prior to the event and remain open and transparent with us regarding any such work.

Whilst we would not consider works where generative AI was used to create the core written work, artwork, or creative product, we believe thoughtful transition and open dialogue are more constructive for the independent creative community during this rapidly changing period.