

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 people and community. It 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 and publishing tools. AI is increasingly becoming part of everyday workflows, and many creators may engage with these tools in different ways.

Our aim is not to create fear around technology or police creativity. Instead, we want to encourage openness, transparency, and respectful conversations around how creative work is made, while continuing to support meaningful human creativity and the livelihoods connected to it.

Creativity & AI

Literary Escape Festival strongly values human creativity, imagination, craftsmanship, and artistic expression.

We understand that many creators now use software that includes AI-assisted features, sometimes knowingly and sometimes without fully realising it. Using these tools does not automatically prevent someone from taking part in the festival.

This may include:

- spelling and grammar tools
- accessibility features
- formatting tools
- editing tools
- image enhancement or clean-up
- graphic design assistance
- brainstorming or planning tools
- marketing and productivity tools

We also recognise that different creators may choose to use technology in different ways within their creative process.

Whoever is behind the work remains responsible for what they are sharing, selling, or presenting at the festival.

Transparency & Community Values

At the heart of Literary Escape Festival is a desire to support meaningful connections between creators, readers, artists, makers, and small businesses.

We encourage creators to be open and honest about how their work is created, especially where generative AI has played a significant role in the final work.

We also understand that AI-assisted features are now built into many commonly used creative tools, particularly within areas such as design, illustration, editing, and marketing. Because of this, the use of AI within creative work can sometimes be complicated and not always obvious or intentional.

Literary Escape Festival mainly focuses on supporting and showcasing human-led creativity, storytelling, artistry, and craftsmanship. While we understand that technology is evolving quickly, we do not knowingly support the intentional misrepresentation of fully or substantially AI-generated work as entirely human-created.

This may include:

- fully AI-generated books or written work presented as human-written
- creative works where generative AI has formed the majority of the final output without transparency around its use
- work presented in a way that may intentionally mislead audiences about the level of human creative involvement

Where concerns are raised, Literary Escape Festival reserves the right to review work and take appropriate action where necessary.

Our expectation is not perfection, but honesty, transparency, and respect for the wider creative community.

Transitional & Existing Works

We recognise that many independent creators have been navigating rapidly changing advice, tools, and industry pressures over recent years, often while working with very limited budgets and resources.

During this time, many creators were encouraged across the publishing and creative industries to adopt AI-assisted tools and workflows to remain competitive and visible.

As a result, some creators may already have existing books, artwork, graphics, branding, or products that were created using generative AI tools, commissioned services, or design approaches they may not choose in the same way today. In many cases, replacing covers, branding, or older work may not be financially realistic for independent creators or small businesses.

Our intention is not to punish creators who acted in good faith during a fast-changing and often confusing period within the creative industries. We want to support

creators who are engaging thoughtfully with these conversations and who broadly share our commitment to meaningful human creativity and artistic contribution.

Because of this, Literary Escape Festival may take a flexible and balanced approach when considering older or existing work, particularly where:

- the creator remains substantially responsible for the wider creative work
- the use of generative AI is limited to specific historic covers, graphics, or assets
- the creator is moving away from substantial generative AI use in future projects
- the work still reflects the wider spirit and values of the festival community

We believe thoughtful conversations and realistic transition periods are more helpful for independent creators than overly rigid rules that fail to recognise the practical and financial realities many people face.

We also understand that many creators now use tools with AI-assisted features without fully realising it — whether that is removing the background from an author photo, using automated formatting tools, improving image quality, or purchasing licensed stock images without knowing every stage of how they were created.

Our focus remains on supporting meaningful human creativity while building an approach that is fair, practical, transparent, and realistic for the independent creative community.

Our Commitment

Literary Escape Festival remains committed to supporting:

- independent creators and small businesses
- meaningful creative expression
- openness and transparency
- respectful creative communities
- authentic connections between creators and audiences

Our goal is to create events that celebrate the people behind the work while recognising that creativity, technology, and artistic practice will continue to evolve.

Document Overview

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