

Presentation Summary: Microsoft Copilot in the Classroom

Speaker: Mark Vickers – Royal Hospital School

Focus: Leveraging Microsoft Copilot's specialized AI tools to streamline teacher workflows, differentiate content, and enhance student revision.

1. Understanding AI "Agents"

Mark defines an AI agent as a Large Language Model (LLM) pointed at a **highly specific task** rather than searching the entire internet for a general response. Copilot uses these built-in agents to act as specialized digital assistants for educators.

2. Core Features of the Copilot "Teach Agent"

The Teach Agent includes a specific "Teaching Tools" section divided into four primary capabilities:

- **Curriculum Planning:** Generates standard lesson plans, interactive lessons (via Copilot PCs), and specialized Minecraft Education lesson plans.
- **Content Modification:** Automatically alters reading levels, adds supporting examples, aligns materials to educational standards, and differentiates instructions.
UK System Localization: Copilot now recognizes the UK school system, allowing teachers to select **Year 5 or Year 6** directly instead of translating from US grade levels.
- **Assessment Creation:** Builds assessment rubrics and creates interactive quizzes via Microsoft Forms.
- **Learning Activities:** Generates interactive student tasks such as flashcards (term/definition, Q&A, or multiple choice with dynamic hints), matching activities for key terms, and gap-fill (fill-in-the-blank) exercises.

3. The Microsoft Ecosystem Advantage

While third-party AI platforms (like Magic School) offer similar generation tools, Mark emphasizes that the true value of Copilot lies in its **native ecosystem integration**:

- **OneNote Integration:** Generated flashcards and interactive games can be embedded directly into **OneNote Class Notebooks**. This keeps pupils inside a single environment, preventing them from needing to navigate to external sites like Quizlet.
- **Data Insights:** Teachers instantly receive a class-wide data overview of student performance on the embedded activities (with individual pupil tracking currently on the Microsoft roadmap).

4. Copilot 13+ for Students

For secondary schools (Year 9 and above), rolling out Copilot 13+ gives students access to their own dedicated revision agent called **"Study and Learn."** Instead of just handing students a completed block of text, this tool acts as an active, step-by-step tutor. For example, if a student asks to learn about photosynthesis, the agent first asks, *"Tell me what you already know,"* scaffolding the concept interactively based on their current knowledge.