

Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Hand Embroidery Design
For Certificate and Diploma (C&D) Students and Professional Embroidery Tutor
Training (PET) Students.
Royal School of Needlework (RSN)

Introduction

As part of our commitment to maintaining the highest standards in traditional hand embroidery, the RSN has developed this guidance to clarify the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the context of your studies.

This document outlines our rules on AI-generated content, explains the rationale behind our approach, and supports your development as an original, skilled designer and practitioner of hand embroidery.

Summary

Students on the RSN C&D, and PET courses must not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to generate or assist in the creation of designs for their coursework or assessments.

Why AI Use Is Not Permitted on these Courses

1. Preservation of Artistic Integrity

RSN's teaching is grounded in centuries of traditional practice. Your designs must reflect your personal creative process and technical understanding. AI-generated designs are produced by algorithms and therefore do not reflect your individual voice or interpretation of the brief.

2. Authentic Skill Development

A key aim of the Certificate and Diploma courses is to nurture your ability to develop original ideas and translate them into embroidery. Using AI bypasses this important developmental process and undermines your learning journey.

3. Assessment Integrity

All assessment work must be your own. Submitting AI-generated or AI-assisted designs as your own work constitutes a form of academic dishonesty.

4. Design as a Learned Skill

Creating a hand embroidery design requires time, skill, and an understanding of form, structure, stitch, and context. AI-generated imagery is not designed with

these practicalities in mind, and often lacks the nuance needed for successful translation into stitch.

5. **Lack of Embroidery-Specific Suitability**

AI images are not created with embroidery in mind — they do not account for stitch type, scale, fabric, or texture. Relying on AI imagery can lead to over-complicated or unworkable designs that hinder rather than enhance your final outcomes.

What Is Considered AI Use?

The following activities are **not permitted** for Certificate and Diploma coursework:

- Using AI image generators (e.g. Midjourney, DALL-E, Adobe Firefly) to create source images or design concepts
- Using AI to manipulate or edit your hand-drawn or hand-crafted designs
- Using AI writing tools to generate artist statements, reflections, or contextual notes

What Is Permitted

You **are encouraged** to:

- Use your own original photographs, drawings, or observations from life
- Engage in sketchbook development, collage, or mood boards as part of your design journey
- Seek feedback from tutors and peers as part of the RSN's supportive learning environment
- Use digital tools like Photoshop or Procreate only to refine your **own** artwork, as guided by tutors (e.g. for colour mockups or layout)

If You Are Unsure

If you are ever in doubt about whether a tool or technique is appropriate, please speak to your tutor or contact the Education Office before using it. We are happy to support you in developing your skills and making the most of your own creativity.

Final Note

The RSN is proud to uphold the highest standards of craftsmanship and originality. This policy exists not to limit you, but to support your growth as a confident, capable, and independent embroidery designer.

Your ideas, your hands, your work that's what makes your embroidery truly yours.