

The agent every teacher actually needs

Guide · 21 September 2026

Teachers already use AI — for preparation

- **80%** of educators report using generative AI (TPT survey); 58% use it regularly.
- Top uses: research 44%, lesson plans 38%, summarising 38%, classroom materials 37% (Gallup–Walton, 1,000+ teachers).
- Prep use outruns marking use by roughly seven to one.

Why a chatbot is not enough

A chatbot answers. It does not remember your grade level, hold your curriculum and templates, work through the week while you sleep, or keep a version history. That gap is the difference between an assistant you prompt and an agent you run.

What to look for

- Curriculum and template access — it fills **your** format.
- Per-student notes, so tasks can be differentiated.
- Rubrics it must follow, with reasons — traceable, not confident.
- Email and calendar access for the admin layer.
- Draft-only mode for anything going to a family.
- A clear answer on where student data goes.

Set it up in four steps

1. Load the curriculum, not the internet.
2. Template every recurring artefact — plan, quiz, parent email.
3. Keep student data out; use placeholders for names.
4. Schedule the weekly run — that is where the time comes back.

The takeaway

Pick an agent that reads your curriculum, holds your templates and works while you sleep — then keep it out of student data and out of delivery. The adoption already happened; the differentiator is whether it removes the prep stack or adds another thing to supervise.