

Arts, Culture and Creativity in Education

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What is the purpose of school? A question sharply in focus because of the pandemic.

The current education system was designed on the Industrial Revolution model, focusing on IQ, memorising and standardisation – skills efficiently completed by machines and AI.

Humans have a unique blend of intelligence (QI), emotional intelligence and dispositions such as resilience, creativity and compassion. It is these soft skills that set us apart. They must be harnessed to enable young people to leave school with the ability to compete against smart machines for jobs, creating long-term economic value.

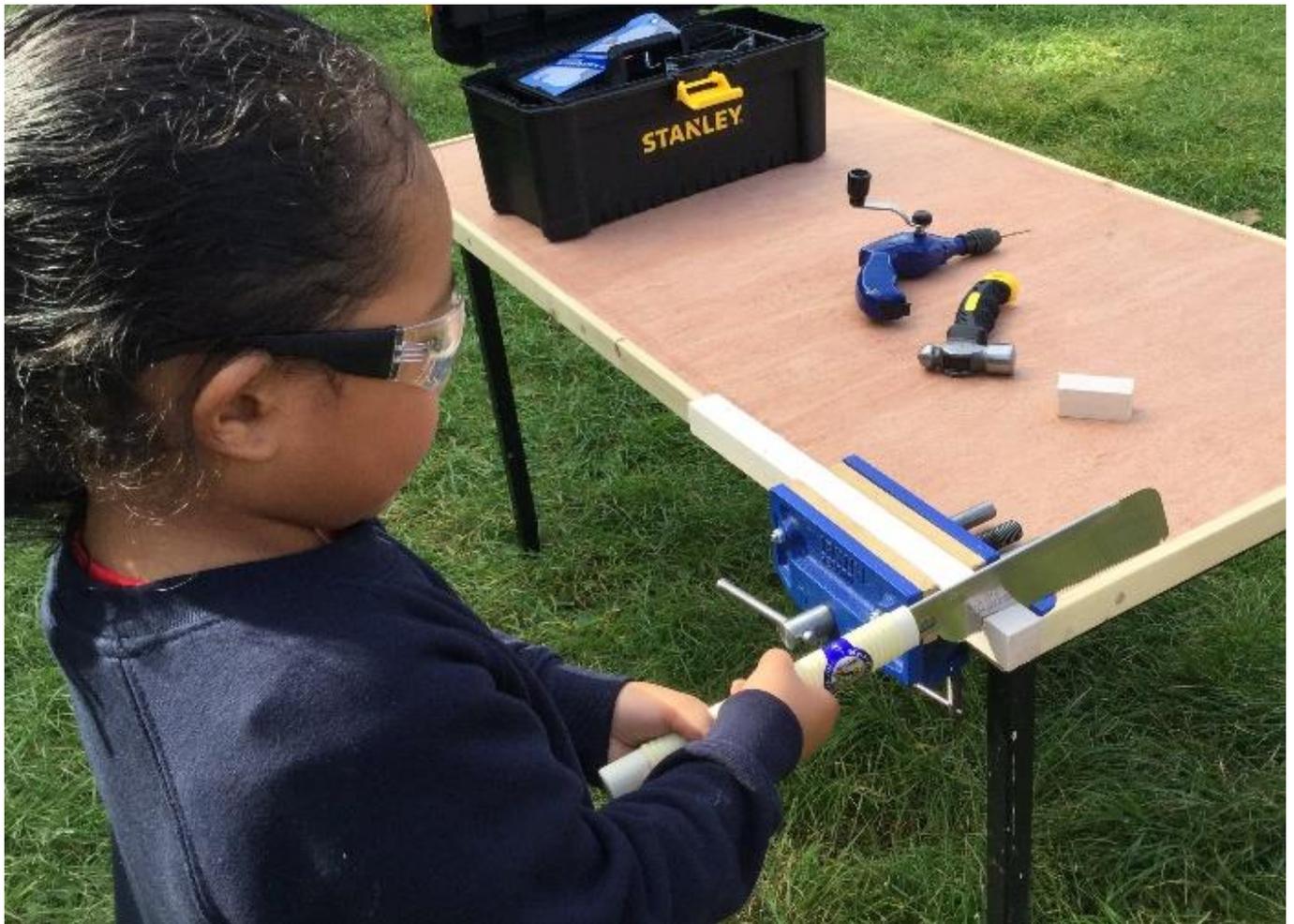
WEF Future of Jobs report concluded that '60% of future jobs haven't been developed yet and 40% of Nursery-aged children in schools today will need to be self-employed to have an income.' School must prepare young people for jobs that haven't been created yet and to become entrepreneurs.

Ofsted has recognised the need to increase the 'Cultural Capital' of each child. The Cultural Learning Alliance believes society should '*enable children to stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before, creating new and exciting forms of culture; to help them fuel solutions to world problems and build creative industries.*'

Each school must define the cultural capital needs in its context to ensure that all pupils are confident creators, able to be 'cultural omnivores' that make informed decisions about what culture they consume. Definitions of cultural capital must celebrate and embrace the different backgrounds, heritage, language and traditions of all the children living in this country.

Education needs to grow leaders who understand the value of the Arts and how they improve outcomes. Developing effective communication between cultural providers and settings will enable impactful partnership work. Young children need to be recognised as competent and capable; the removal of lower age restrictions from cultural opportunities should acknowledge this.

We lead the Stevenage Creative Network to collaboratively address these issues. Let's all commit to collectively be the change. Let's transform education, giving young people the ability to think creatively to navigate the challenges of the future and unleash their potential to benefit the world.



Woodworking supports creative problem solving and resilience.

"Creativity is the greatest gift of human intelligence." Sir Ken Robinson

"Creativity now is as important in education as literacy." Sir Ken Robinson